**NEWS** / A9 **WORLD** / A28 **ACROSS** / A17 **LIFESTYLE** / C1

**Twin-engine plane** crash-lands at Naia, delays 40 flights

**Graft-buster Thai** junta approves wage hikes, perks for selves

**17 of 22 Pampanga** mayors bolt Lakas-NUCD, join GMA's Kampi party

**Janice de Belen is** now a full-size woman without apologies

## GMA in pink, Bush in blue for Apec meet

HANOI—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will be pretty in pink. US President George W. Bush is going for royal blue, while China's Hu Jintao, the veil of good luck and prosperity.

When leaders at this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit line up for their group photo on Sunday, they will—in keeping with Apec tradition—be wearing the traditional costume of the host country.

FOR MORE, SEE A-4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, November 17, 2006 ★★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 351 P18 www.inq7.net

## From QC jail, Atong taken to Bagong Diwa

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Norman Bordadora

CHARLIE "ATONG" ANG, A CO-ACCUSED IN THE plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, was transferred yesterday to a jail in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City where suspected members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf members are held.

FROM QC JAIL, A-11

LOVE NESTS IN CEBU! According to the assessor's office in Mandaue City, Ingrid Ramos owns a townhouse at the upscale Emerald Estate (above) and another at the Garden Ridge Village, both in Cabancalan, Mandaue City. The two houses are merely 200 meters apart.

# 'Caught with pants down'

## Gringo also stayed at Ingrid's Cebu homes

By Fe Zamora, Alcuin Papa and Leila B. Salaverria

THE WOMAN WHO owns the townhouse where Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan was captured early Wednesday also owns two houses in Mandaue City where the fugitive ex-senator stayed whenever he was in Cebu province, an Inquirer source said yesterday.

And Maria Ingrid Blanca Ramos' unit at The Bradane townhomes on Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City, is a "replica" of one of her houses in Mandaue, said the source, who was privy to the details of the police manhunt for Honasan.

The ex-senator was said to own a beach resort in Argao, Cebu. But whenever he was in Cebu, he was known to stay at 119

CAUGHT! A-10

MEDICAL BULLETIN (above) Orthopedic surgeon Francisco Perez Alejandro of the PNP General Hospital updates the media on the condition of his VIP patient (at left) JOAN BONDOC/P

## GMA wants all coup plotters arrested

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOLLOWING THE CAPTURE OF the man she believed masterminded two serious attempts to oust her, President Macapagal-Arroyo wants all coup plotters arrested to put an end to military adventurism in the country.

"The confidence of the world in the Philippines grows firmer every passing day and we must put coup throws in the dustbin of history, and coup plotters in jail, as we traverse the long journey to the First World in the next two decades," the President told the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) in Tagaytay City yesterday.

Mr Arroyo was visibly elated by the capture of former Sen. Gregorio Honasan on Wednesday.

"I personally commend the operatives who worked on this case. I hope there will be no more destabilizing our democracy and our economy," said the President.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that the capture of Honasan, who was involved in a number of coup attempts over the last 20 years, should "break the backbone" of coup plotters in the

DNA HUNTS! A-10

## Honasan out to win Senate seat

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER SEN. GREGORIO Honasan will run again—for a Senate seat in next year's elections.

"I think he's bent on running," said former Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta at a breakfast forum.

Oreta said the 58-year-old retired Army colonel was on the list of senatorial candidates of the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino and had the blessing of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto II, the first politician to see Honasan following his predawn arrest on Wednesday, said he would file Honasan's certificate of candidacy if the authorities would not allow him to do so.

"During the campaign, maybe we can speak for him or invite his wife or one of his sons and daughters to speak for him," Sotto said.

HONASAN, A-10

## *Actor Clooney named 'seviest man alive' by People mag*

LOS ANGELES—COMING OFF a pivotal year in which he earned three Academy Award nominations and climbed on Oscar for his performance in "Syriana," actor George Clooney was again named People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive" on Wednesday.

The accolade marks the second time that Clooney, 45, has topped the magazine's annual list of Hollywood heeltbeats, having been so honored in 1997. His close friend and costar Brad Pitt is the only other celebrity twice-dubbed People's "sexiest man."

"This one's going to be hard

ACTOR CLOONEY, A-10

## Fil-Am is 'Dancing with Stars' champ

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERIcan dancer-choreographer Cheryl Burke and her partner, former Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith, bagged the top prize as this season's champions in the "Dancing with the Stars" program.

The charming and petite Burke, who admitted that her mother Sherri Bautista Burke from Nueva Ecija was her inspiration to pursue a career in dancing, revealed that after the finals show, "We have to catch a red-eye flight to New York for the 'Good Morning America' show."

In fact, before the DWTS show, Oprah Winfrey already interviewed them in her talk show via satellite.

Sherri confessed to us after the finals show that she was nervous last night. "This morning, I went to St. Brendan Church here [in LA] and prayed. I also did that last year," she revealed.

FIL-AM, A-6

## 'Guyito' inspires students to excel, pursue dreams

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

WHEN THE COLORFUL REPLICA of "Guyito," the Inquirer's carabao mascot, was handed over to the Regional Science High School (RSHS) in Barangay San Roque in Zamboanga City, the students said what they saw was more than beauty.

Adrian Uro, editor in chief of the school's Filipino publication Hinanes Sa Malayong Pu mumubuyog (Hayhayit), said Guyito's presence on campus would further inspire him to pursue his dream of becoming a microbiologist.

In fact, the image would be on his mind when he flies to Manila to join the first nationhood competition on microbiology this week.

Fifteen-year-old Ralph Christopher Caoile said Guyito really represented the Filipino youth, who are inquisitive.

"Whenever I see Guyito, I want to strive more," he said.

The RSHS was one of 20 schools nationwide that produced winners in the National Super Quiz Bee competition held in December last year. Its

GUYITO A-5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

**WEATHER FORECAST**

Second FRONTPAGE

# 2 justices asked to inhibit selves

## Cha-cha backers want Panganiban, Carpio out

By Lala B. Saberola

LAWYERS FOR A PRO-CHARTER CHANGE group have asked Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Justice Antonio Carpio to inhibit themselves from deliberating on the pending motion for reconsideration of the people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

In a motion filed before the court yesterday, lawyers for the Sigaguniyan Movement Foundation said the two justices would not be able to rule fairly on the appeal filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) because they were biased against the petition.

Sidenghagan is pushing for a people's initiative to effect a shift to a parliamentary-unicameral form of government like Japan and Libya.

Carpio had written the Supreme Court's strongly-worded dissent justifying the people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

"A judge should take no part in a proceeding where the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned," the Sidenghagan lawyers said in their motion, citing Rule 3(c)(1) and quoting from the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Sidenghagan particularly asked Carpio to recuse himself because of the reported involvement of his former law office, Sangalang, Velasco and Associates, in the moves to defease the petition.

Carpio was a founding member of the law office, along with outgoing Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, who had described the people's initiative as "legally infirm." Cruz has since been known as "The Firm" and counts President Macapagal-Arroyo and his husband among its clients.

Sidenghagan said the alleged involvement of Carpio's former law partners in demolishing the petition "taints Court's actions" even more than just coincidence.

"The reported involvement of Justice Carpio's former law partners in assisting the drafts of the petition is quite disturbing, to say the least," the group said in its motion. "The fact that both the honorable justice and Secretary Cruz were founding partners of The Firm only underscores movant's belief that the latter cannot handle the matter with utmost impartiality."

In his Pangasinan, Sidenghagan said his ordering of the copies of the majority decision and the separate opinions in the people's initiative case personally delivered to all parties concerned was unprecedented and "only to maliciously orchestrate" to ensure that should any motion for reconsideration be filed, he would still be the Chief Justice.

The group also said Bengzon has not campaigned against the petition and has no ties with Sidenghagan, and that his wife and that of Justice Ramon Coloja had cheered for the anti-Cha-cha side during the oral arguments on the petition.

"We hold by the Supreme Court to an intent rare canon, a judge should be like Caesar's wife: because a judge must not only be pure but must be beyond suspicion," Sidenghagan said.

The Supreme Court, voting 8-7, had dismissed the petition saying it is corrupt the Commission on Elections' function to recognize the people's initiative petition to effect Charter change.

The tribunal had questioned the process by which the signatures in support of the petition were gathered since the full text of the proposed amendments was not shown to the people. The court had described the process as a "gigantic fraud."

**PROTESTERS** of workers' unions in Australia demonstrate outside the Philippine Consulate in Sydney on Nov. 14 to protest political killings and the intimidation of union members in the Philippines. International human rights and business groups have urged the Arroyo administration to put a stop to the violence and bring the perpetrators to justice. AFP

# Stop the killings, Canadians plead

A CANADIAN TEAM OF AC-tivists arrived yesterday to investigate what it said was an "alarming deterioration of human rights" in the country.

The nine-member fact-finding team composed of lawyers, trade unionists, community leaders and human rights advocates will examine cases of extra-judicial killings and tell-tale signs of political and trade union groups, among other human rights abuses.

The group said in a statement it was "alarmed by the increasing human rights situation in the Philippines." The leftist human rights group Karapatan has documented 784 deaths of activists since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001.

"We are very much concerned about reports of increasing human rights abuses in the Philippines," lawyer Liesbeth Steenbergen, a Filipino-Canadian and coordinator of the Philippines-Canada Task Force for Human Rights said.

Tasks undertook Both Gruner said will include killings and trade union repression "worst to have occurred" around the country in recent years.

She cited the attack on striking lumber workers two years ago in Hacienda Luisita—a corporate farm controlled by the family of the former president Corazon Aquino—where seven unionists were killed in an example.

Last week the executives of seven major US retail giants that source garments from the Philippines sent a letter to Mr Arroyo calling on her to restrict labor and human rights.

The executives representing Gap, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nike, Liz Claiborne, American Eagle Outfitters, Jones Apparel Group and Phillips Van Heusen.

The letter was in reaction to the violent dispersal of striking workers in September at the Cavite Export Processing Zone near Manila.

A report prepared by the Hong Kong Mission for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines said: Wednesday the government "is not grossly failing to protect its citizens, and at worst may be complicit in an orchestrated campaign of targeted assassination."

"Many witnesses and victims' family members believe that the state is engaged in a campaign to eliminate politically 'leftist' groups and individuals in the Philippines," said the report, which was released through the Asian Human Rights Commission.

Fraudulent arrests defended her government's record on human rights after foreign business groups expressed alarm over a spate of political killings.

On Monday the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce said murder "for political reasons has no place in a modern democratic state."

AFP

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# Media should headline good news, too, says GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño

JUST AS THE MEDIA DEADLINES THE killings of militants and journalists, it should do the same when the perpetrators are captured by the authorities.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday lamented that good news tended to be found anywhere but on the front pages of newspapers.

Addressing the Third Level Management Conference of the Philippine ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (BBS), Ms Arroyo expressed her dismay and concern over the extra-judicial killings but pointed out that the authorities continued to pursue the killers and had arrested the suspects in 18 journalists' murder case.

"Sana naman bago ako ay sabihin ni napakasa parako ang headline pag ay isang taong nagpatay ako ng tao-media 1960s that when the killers are arrested and jailed, it would make the headlines just as when they killed the journalists," she said at the conference held at the Sta Elena Lodge in Tagaytay City.

The President is convinced, however, that some groups against the government are taking advantage of the situation.

"Pero pag ang lumilitaw nga results, nagpapatay ng mga komunista nagpapatay ng mga mga biyolenteng gumagawa ng gulo at ito [They purge their ranks, kill innocent civilians and then blame it on the government]," she said.

She was apparently referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines, which the government and security officials have accused of being behind the extrajudicial killings of militants.

The President said the government will not tolerate this "extremism."

That was why she formed the Melo Commission to get to the bottom of the extrajudicial killings and met with human rights groups abroad to seek their help, she said.

"We are not only asking media to report only the good news but to deliver the facts straight and accurately," she said.

The President said there was so much good news in the country today that needed to be disseminated to the people.

The good news is needed at this time to give more investment confidence in the country, she said.

Ms Arroyo said she did not need to list the good news since 4M9 president Jun Simbulan earlier told the conference that "much of the good news is only found in the business page and not the front page."

"What we need after freedom but corporate media through the exercise of responsible media freedom," the President said.

"Help me make our people understand the reforms we must pursue to move forward," she implored the audience.

# Bong Revilla hospitalized

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR. WAS DE-ex to the Asian Medical Center in Muntinlupa City yesterday afternoon after he complained of being ill hours after undergoing a minor surgery to a cyst in the head in the same hospital.

Members of Revilla's staff drove him back to the hospital when he vomited after taking lunch at his residence in Alabang Village. After he was wheelchaired into the hospital, he vomited again. The attending chief medical-relations officer Judee Aguilar said.

Doctors said the vomiting might be an adverse effect of the anesthetic administered on the senator during his morning operation. They advised him to spend the night at the hospital, Aguilar said.

"Apparently, the effects of the anesthesia had not yet completely left the body of [Revilla]. The vomiting is due to dizziness," she said.

Revilla, 48, a first-term senator who is married to actress-and-TV host Lani Mercado, underwent operation for lymphocyst, or cyst-like, in the head and in the neck in the morning and checked out at around 12 noon, according to Aguilar.

# Good omens don't win elections, Palace told

IT WOULD TAKE more than "good omens" for the administration to secure victory in the national and local elections in 2007, an opposition lawmaker said yesterday.

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MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BACOLOD

APEC FOREIGN MINISTERS pose for a souvenir photo after their meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation at the national convention center in Hanoi. Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo is on the front row, 5th from left; (2) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is (5th from left.

# GMA leaves tonight for Hanoi Apec meet

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH A LEAN DELEGATION TO BE headed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, President Macapagal-Arroyo leaves tonight for Vietnam to attend the 14th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, among other meetings.

From Secretary Romulo to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Arroyo will also hold a bilateral meeting with other leaders of Canada and possibly the leaders of Chile and Russia on the sidelines of the summit.

Mr. Arroyo and Bush are expected to talk about security matters, according to Bunye.

"I believe it will be heavy on economics, especially on the pursuits of the joint efforts on terrorism," he told reporters.

In Hanoi, Mr. Arroyo, as chair of this year's summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is expected to raise the Asean position on free trade and regional security.

Asked if the President will raise regional economic integration at the summit, Bunye said this would be discussed, "so how we will move forward, especially taking into consideration the hardships of the disasters (typhoons) in the..."

Upon her arrival in Hanoi tonight, Ms Arroyo is expected to meet with the Filipino community in Vietnam at the Hotel Sofitel, where she and her official delegation will be billeted.

## Bilateral meetings

On Saturday when the summit begins, she will attend the Asean Senior Meeting plus the United States-Indonesia-Southeast Asia Summit of meetings with the United States, Canada, China and Russia.

She will then attend the Apec Leaders' Retreat and Leaders' Dialogue with the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac).

Later, she will attend the CEO summit where she will be giving the closing keynote speech.

On Sunday, the President will start her day by attending Mass at the Archbishop's Chapel before attending another Apec Leaders' session.

From the venue, she will attend the luncheon for Apec leaders and join the leaders to pose for the official photograph.

The Apec summit ends with Ms Arroyo and the leaders listening to the reading of their joint declaration.

## Overnight in Singapore

She then flies to Singapore where she will stay overnight. In Singapore, the President is expected to give interviews to the foreign press, particularly CNBC and Bloomberg, which will air the interviews on Monday.

She will meet Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

She will leave Singapore on Monday afternoon and arrive in Manila in the evening.

Joining Ms Arroyo—in her Vietnam trip are Hanoi, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and Philippine Ambassador to Vietnam Lucille Borromeo.

The Tier-women Philippines joining the President are Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, Philippine Rep. Anna York Bondoc, Bulacan Rep. Loren Legarda, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco and Occidental Rep. Amelita Villarosa.

Also on the official delegation are Roberto Nemenzo, presidential adviser on competitiveness and chair of Abac Philippines; Apec Senior Officials' meeting head Nabil Custodio and Ambassador Benjamin Defensor, chair of the Apec Counterterrorism Task Force.

# GMA in pink, Bush in blue for Apec meet

From page A1

The Apec fashion show has met with mixed reactions since its debut in 1993 in which leaders looked comfortable in Canada's aviator jackets, less so in South Korea's elaborate silk costumes.

In Vietnam, the leaders will soon their wait in the so-dai, pronounced "zai yo," an elegant calf-length silk tunic associated with the country's imperial past that is today reserved for ceremonial purposes and mostly worn by women.

## Vietnam's debut

Clinton (the 14 of the 21 leaders attending the weekend summit are men, who will be wearing the dress on duty with a gold-threaded ceremonial flower motif over their pants, an awkward sartorial statement could be overbearing.

The Hanoi authorities, wanting to make a good impression at an event new, keen as Vietnam's debut on the world stage, rushed to the first couple's most famous designer to dress the world's most powerful men and women.

Minh Hanh, who hails from bustling Ho Chi Minh City is taking the job seriously. He hired 20 seamstresses, who spent months cutting dozens of meters of high-quality Vietnamese silk into 21 crowd-worthy works of design art.

"I wanted to create a symbol of traditional Vietnamese culture that is also modern," Hanh said. "I want to give it to our guests with all of Vietnam's heart, and for them to receive it with all of their hearts."

## Fashion police

Given the order from the Hanoi leadership came to eight months ago, Hanh has been busy drawing up 21 different designs in a myriad of textures that leave room under close scrutiny from the communist regime's fashion police.

In the end, the foreign women's silhouettes of grayscale and style settled on just five colors, samples of which were sent to the leaders of Apec's 21 other economies on both sides of the Pacific.

## Top choice

The top choice among the 10 men—among them the leaders of Russia, Japan and Australia—is a business-like blue, while the purple Putin-South Korea, Singapore and Peking hang are among leaders going with the navy tod.

Thailand and Vietnam will shine in golden yellow, Brunei and Papua New Guinea liked the deep green, and men of Apec's three newest leaders, Mr Arroyo and New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clark, will make a bold summer statement in coral pink.

Beyond the symbolic choice of colors, there is also the issue of security. Police of a rarely pictures Bush's bananas' like, summer police have meticulously checked the outfits for leftover needles and assassins' poisons.

Motive has created another headache since the Congress last week voted to win President G. ouster Ngo's overseas trip—who will take the place, and the large blue on the, of the tall, broad-shouldered head of state?

## Headdress

And then there are the hats. The no dot is traditionally worn with a turban like headdress, and Bush's Stetson has prepared 21 of the pieces in matching colors so the shirts.

But for now, there is a chance they will remain on their bags.

Last week, state television reported that the Vietnamese hosts may inform their visiting Apec leaders to wear cheap, but semi-formal headdresses to match the fashion parameters of their featured guests.

## Asean leaders and Bush

On the sidelines of the Apec summit, Southeast Asian leaders and Bush will discuss ways to enhance trade and counterterrorism cooperation.

Bush and leaders of seven countries belonging to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) will meet Saturday in Hanoi, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

They will discuss political, economic and security issues along with the enactment of individual Asean members, Romulo told reporters late Wednesday.

After the meeting, Ms Arroyo will have a 45-minute talk with Bush, according to Philippine officials.

Total trade between Asean and the United States rose 12.6 percent to $177 billion last year.

In August, the United States and Asean signed a Trade and Investment Facilitation Arrangement, a nonbinding agreement aimed at enhancing trade and investment flows.

After signing the pact with Asean ministers in Malaysia, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab assured a would-be post-Washington to 08 economic freedom or risk the cessation of military aid Burma (Myanmar) sent its poor human rights record. Burma is an Asean member.

Washington has also been concerned over the presence of al-Qaida-linked militants in Southeast Asia. It has deployed troops to the southern Philippines to help train and arm its forces battling Islamic militants who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's network.

## Broker talks with N. Korea

Meanwhile, Sun Seoul said its willingness to help broker two-party talks over the North's nuclear standoff by offering the Philippines as a neutral venue for the negotiations, Romulo said.

He said he discussed the offer with other diplomats, including his Vietnamese counterpart, and they had have no definite reply yet.

Seoul, currently chaired by the Philippines, protested North Korea's recent nuclear test, saying it threatened Asean peace and security.

Asean members Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are believing to Apec. Its other members are Cambodia, Laos and Burma. Reports from AFP and AP

## Corrections

IN THE NOV. 14 ISSUE, a story on Page A13—"Estrada Exits 6 senators back power"—misstated that then President Joseph Estrada declared Nov. 16-Dec. 2 as Mindanao Week of Peace. Estrada issued Proclamation No. 207, issued in November 1999, declared Nov. 21-Dec. 1 as Mindanao Week of Peace. Estrada amended this the following year through Proclamation No. 408, which moved the date to the last Thursday of November up to the first Wednesday of December. In November 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 137 that basically refixed the second Estrada proclamation.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 16 ISSUE, a front page special report—"MIS chief compatriot 'cozy' ties was of all evils"—misstated the date Angelo Reyes assumed the post of secretary of the Department of National Defense. He assumed the post in March 2001—not March 1998.

* * *

IN TREASURE ISLE, a front page story—"The accident the scene on Ingrid Bunoy"—misstated the year Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan was first elected senator. He won his first term in 1995—not 1998.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 16 ISSUE, another front page story—"People Power I propelled him to prominence"—mistakenly described the land of snake Ubonsawa carried around his neck when parachuting from airplanes. Tiffany was a python—not a cobra.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrective information to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue cor. Makati-Mo. Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-8710, 896-6214; e-mail address: <mailto:inq@inq7.net>.

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# Baguio salad fest goes organic

BAGUIO CITY—This year's Baguio Tossed Salad Festival is going organic as organizers sell out organic vegetables from Benguet farmers who have shifted to indigenous farming.

Gerry Bebera, vice president of the Baguio Association of Hotels and Restaurants (Baha), said the festival on Nov. 19 at the Baguio Convention Center is one of the best ways to promote organic vegetables of Benguet, the country's salad bowl.

"It is not yet widely known that Benguet has been producing its own organic vegetables and that there are farmers who have already shifted to organic farming. That is why we are using organic vegetables on the day of the festival to market the product," Bebera said.

Jeannine Chan, Baha president, said the tossed salad will be placed in a 30-foot diameter bowl. The chefs will use 1.5 tons of organic and non-organic vegetables such as lettuce, carrots, tomatoes and cucumber.

She said the festival is expected to draw 15,000 people to surpass the record 13,000 people last year.

Baha will also hold culinary skills contests featuring chefs and students from Baguio and Sierra Madre.

"We wish that the farmers will be more aggressive in marketing the organic vegetables and be more involved in marketing their produce. People are getting more health conscious and more conscious about the kind of vegetables they eat," she said.

Chan said they want the vegetable consumers to be aware that Benguet is not only a producer of quality vegetables but also home of the organically grown produce.

Patricia Azanza, division chief of the Agribusiness and Marketing of Department of Agriculture-Cordillera, said local farmers have reduced the use of pesticides by 30 percent due to the continuous practice of integrated pest management to combat vegetable pests.

Because of this, the officials said locally produced vegetables have more chances of penetrating the international market, where demand for organic vegetables is high.

"Our vegetables are of great quality and very safe that they could compete in the international market. Its profound quality vegetables even beats the other countries for us were using too much pesticides," Azanza said. Desiree Cañete, Inquirer Northern Luzon

# 1,058 PNR families to get own land

A TOTAL OF 1,058 FAMILIES ILLEGALLY residing in the Philippine National Railways property in Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela will soon be awarded lots, according to Vice President Noli de Castro.

At the same time, another 858 families living in the same property guaranteed there may after receiving individual Certificates of Lot Allotment (CLOA) from De Castro.

The Vice President said the PNR property was being conserved as housing purposes by the government.

"Hindi na po dapat nakikitira lamang ang mga informal settlers o squatters, dahil bawat isa may-ari-ng mga sertipikasyon na nagsasabing dapat ay mga lehitimong residente na kinikilala ng gobyerno. Dito rin sa longer be called informal settlers or squatters because you have the certificates that say you are the legitimate residents recognized by the government," De Castro told the beneficiaries during the awarding ceremony yesterday.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said that in the case of the 1,058 families, their legitimate claim in the area can be easily verified.

"Sa ngayon po ay inaayos pa ng HUDCC ang technical description ng kanilang mga lote, dahang pa kayong mag-alala dahil meron kaming mga surveyor ng pagsisiyasat para dapat rin sa amphitheater na ng shelter awareness. Dahil sa ngayon HUDCC is working on the technical description of the lots. Don't worry because we will train the process so you also will have shelter securities," he said.

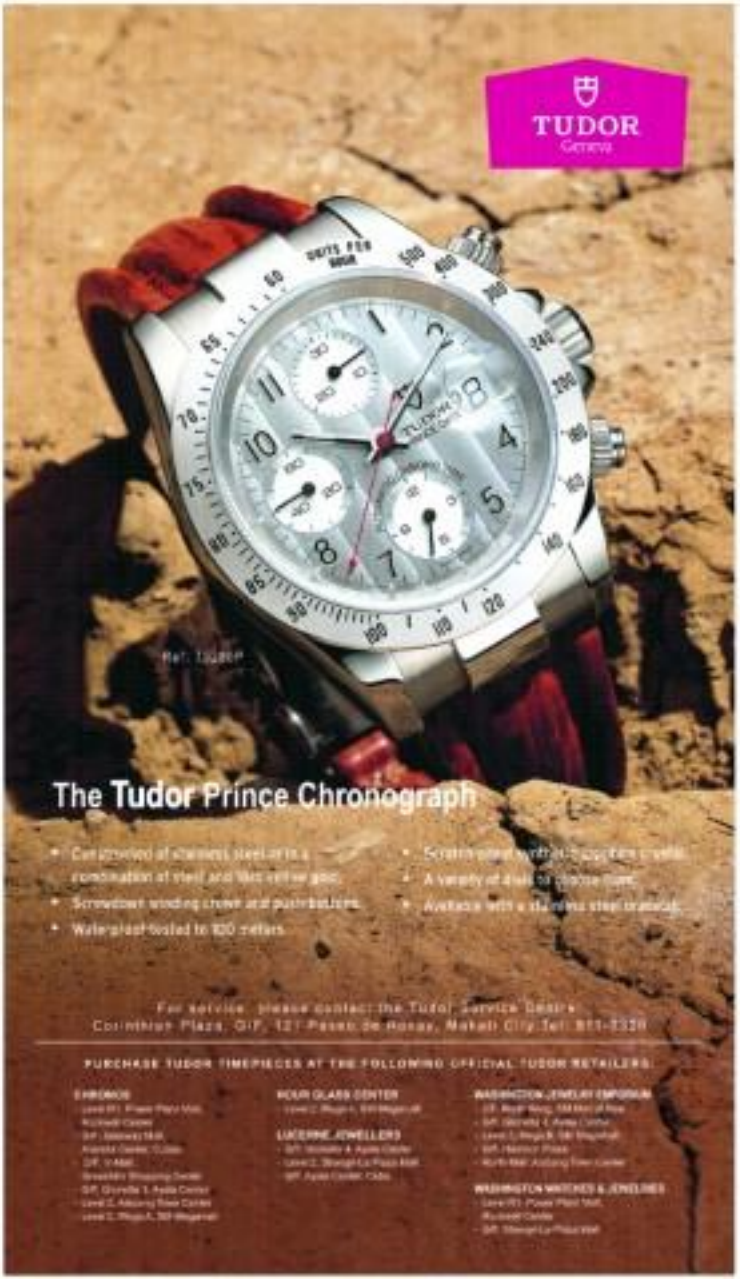
De Castro had earlier awarded 100 new PNR properties to qualified beneficiaries in three other towns in Pampanga, namely, Mexico, San Luis and Magalang.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval, who was present at yesterday's ceremony, said he was pleased with what the HUDCC was doing about the squatter problem in his town.

Morales said "the outstanding performance of the national shelter program brings the people closer to the government."

De Castro said the government's national housing program was gaining wider support outside Metro Manila as more barangay families were being given shelter through the various HUDCC housing programs.

Figures from the National Statistics Office showed that the country's housing backlog still stood at three million units despite billions of pesos allocated by the Pag-Ibig Fund and the National Housing Authority for housing projects this year. Cynthia D. Balana



# Fil-Am is 'Dancing with Stars' champion

From page A1

Ms Arroyo added that she was so grateful to the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco and to all the Filipinos Americans who had supported her daughter and Dimitri here in the US and overseas. "We would like to thank all the Filipinos who showed their support once more to us," she said.

## Most Valued Partner

If Smith is known as an NFL legend and former Super Bowl MVP, Burke is now being touted as the MVP (Most Valued Partner) in the top-rated ABC-TV show.

Standing with the latter's real-life dance counterpart are stars celebrities with professional dancers.

Judge Len Goodman said of the 22-year-old Burke: "This girl should be an MVP—Most Valued Partner." Goodman pointed out that Burke had the ability to bring out the best in her partners and encouraged the dancer that high-lighted her partners' natural talents.

## Transformation

Smith, who admitted at the beginning of the show that his dancing was simply limited to clubbing, was transformed during the dance contest. According to judge Carrie Ann Inaba, "You have transformed from an every-day man to a very graceful dancer before our eyes in the past 10 weeks."

"I am very lucky to have Cheryl as my partner because she has inspired me to do my best," Smith said in an exclusive interview with the Inquirer after the finals show.

Burke, on the other hand, disclosed that she did not feel pressured at all since she was her pro's champion. "I did not feel pressured because I am dancing with a different person. It is a completely different situation and experience," she explained to us.

When told that a lot of Filipino-Americans voted for them, Smith broke into his now popular toothy-smile, gave a thumbs-up sign and said, "Thank you! That is awesome!"

Burke added, "Yes, I would like to thank all the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans who supported and voted for us."

Come Dec. 28, the dancing duo will appear at Staples Center here as part of the "Dancing with the Stars" 20-city tour that starts in San Diego on Dec. 19 and ends in Atlantic City on Feb. 11.

Taking a cue from another top-rated reality show, "American Idol," the stars from the first three seasons of DWTS will perform in the arena months into her television partnership, while local dancers and celebrities will include Burke and Lachey, Joey McIntyre and Tiffani Alfonsen, Louis Van Amstel and Lisa Rinna, Joey Lawrence and Julia Blendon-Wilkie, Tony Dovolani and Shandon Chamberlain and Stacy Hamilin and Karina Smirnoff.

## 'So talented, gifted'

Actress Lisa Rinna, one of the contestants in the earlier seasons of DWTS, told the Inquirer that she was so proud of Cheryl, too. "She is an amazing girl. She is so talented and gifted," she said. She volunteered that she also love Cheryl her winter jackets he Oprah Winfrey to New York because "the poor girl didn't have any more time to shop."

While in New York, Burke and Smith will also appear in the World Children's Day as McDonald's on 42nd Street to help raise funds for the benefit of children around the world. The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, who is the World Children's Day global ambassador, is expected to attend.

Backstage, the press people had made bets before the announcement of the winners. The pot was $15 for Inaba and $20 for Minnie.

During breaks in the show, the studio audience chanted, "Encore! Encore!"

## Perfect score

For the finale show, Burke and Smith (who dubbed "Twinkle Toes") first danced the paso to Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke" to which Judge Len Goodman said, "I was hoping to see a great finale, and you did not disappoint me to any way." They received a perfect score of 20.

For their second number, Burke and Smith did the mambo to which Judge Bruno Tonioli said, "Well, Emmitt, you must be empowered and driven by the music of dance, because you are delivering like a true professional. You look like you've been doing this all your life." They got another perfect score.

For their last performance, they danced the freestyle to 50 Cent's "U Can't Touch This." Judge Carrie Ann Inaba said, "You just put MC Hammer in drama our heart." They got 20 out of 30.

Both Tinsman, Smith raised Burke as being the "little ball" and he was the "big ball."

## Like bread, sis

"We have become like a bunch of old aunts," Burke disclosed.

Smith, on the other hand, thanked Burke "for pushing me even when I did not want to be pushed. I thank you for being patient even when I wasn't and I thank you for being you because you bring yourself at

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC: Fil-Am Cheryl Burke and Emmitt Smith celebrate their win and show off their stellar steps during the finale in Los Angeles on Wednesday. The dancer and the Dallas Cowboys running back danced the samba, the rumba and the freestyle, scoring perfect for the first two numbers.

[illegible] to be me."

Burke became teary-eyed, covered her face, and then hugged Smith.

So what is Burke going to do after all this?

"I am going to Hawaii for a vacation and I want to get some sleep, too," she said with a smile.

# 'Guyito' inspires students to excel, pursue dreams

From page A1

representative was Daniel Ernest Noronio, then a senior student.

In recognition of their feat, the top 20 winners received for their schools replicas of Guyito, which were specially painted by some of the country's top artists, who had been commissioned by the Inquirer to mark its 20th anniversary last year.

A replica of the mascot, which was painted by painter/fine artist Jack Arisal, was turned over to the 6th officials on Friday by the Inquirer's corporate affairs manager Cassie Kalaw-gayan, national editor Joe Sandoval, Northern Luzon bureau chief Sally Fernandez and corporate affairs associate Megi Garcia.

## Smallest but 1 high school

Anselmo Dark Bee Stadist, Sarah Lou Saindap, won a Guyito replica for her school, the Pestard National High School (PNHS) in Barangay Pestard, Cagayan de Oro City. Graduating only 366 square meters of land, the PNHS could be the smallest national high school in the country in terms of land area.

The sculpture was painted by artist Bing Sioshi, who spent his childhood in the mountain forests of Bukidnon. It was turned over to the PNHS by Garcia and John Jerry managing editor of Inicom Compact, on Oct. 20.

Revealed with a simple duel and installed beside a Guyito, Garcia has been made a corresponding of the PNHS Nature's Garden.

Melanie Mines, the school principal, said Guyito's presence would be a source of pride for even years because it would serve as a reminder that its students are excellent.

Teachers Beatriz Bugasi and Alice Lin agreed. They said it was Guyito's presence that motivated students to study and work hard and excel in [illegible].

TOP 4: Students who excelled in science, math and research at the Regional Science High School in Zamboanga City pose with the impressive mascot Guyito during its summer to the school. The students are, from left, Najeh Cunda, Adrian Lim, Fuerzie Dagari and Alice Lim (standing).

HOMECOMING AT BALUBURAL: Principal of the Pestard National High School in Barangay Pestard in Cagayan de Oro City for 12 years, Fe Anotena-Bernaldo escorts for the unveiling of Guyito on Thursday. Retired Bernaldo is Gil Arsenia, the current principal. This Guyito sculpture was painted by Bing Sioshi in celebration of nature.

## Drainage design

Lim, who has devised a way of using scrap tires instead of iron grills in drainage systems, said Guyito would always remind him to strive for more.

He said his failure to impress the judges during a recent science competition would not discourage him.

"The use of scrap tires is a way of helping our environment. It is everything. It's not costly and could easily clean water ways whenever plastic materials get stuck. I should modify upon our research," Lim told the Inquirer.

## Inspiration

Dominic Sim, science department coordinator, said that the members' production hard work, diligence and excellence, like the Inquirer.

The Inquirer, Sim said, is always an explorer never ceases to work hard and pursue excellence in the world of information, communication and opinion.

Eve thanked the newspaper for serving as an inspiration in his work as a science [illegible]. "I see the Inquirer as possessing the strong power of journalism, even boasting ground with youths like us for development," he said.

Above the painted Guyito sculpture was carved next to the PNHS in Cagayan de Oro, the inscription: carved out to be a homecoming is more ways than one.

## Homecoming for principal

The principal who welcomed the Inquirer crew was joined by his predecessor, Sy. Bernadeta Bonadig, who had returned to the school she had built up over the years for the 3rd time.

At the simple rites, Inquirer editor Sary spoke about the traits needed in youth "intellect" and "transformation" together.

Artist Bautist had based his eye-catching design on the idea of the tree as a part of nature. "It's all an extension of my boyhood experience of nature. Progress has caused it all, but it still exists in my memories." With a report from Bruce C. Allbeck, Inquirer Bukidnon


## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE WEST ZONE

### Maynilad's Bayan Tubig benefits 900,000 urban poor in the West Zone

BAYAN Tubig, Maynilad's residential water delivery service for the urban poor, provides low-income families with clean, convenient and affordable water through individual water service connections. Since its inception last February 1999, the program has already benefited close to 900,000 people in the West Zone. As of October 2006, the number of home service connections has reached 98,758.

One such beneficiary is 11-year-old Ariel Salazar, who used to walk 300 meters from his house and endured long queues just to fetch water from the deepwell that served over 130 families in the SARANAY area, Barangay 178, Camarin II in Caloocan. Before Bayan Tubig, residents used to spend about P50 per drum of water from vendors.

But after Bayan Tubig reached Camarin II on October 2004, households in the area that have never had water supply for 58 years now have water flowing straight from their own faucets.

Since residents now have reliable water, they can devote their time towards livelihood pursuits that they used to spend fetching water from a public faucet. It is in this way that Maynilad, through its Bayan Tubig program, contributes to an improved quality of life, especially for those living in blighted communities.

Quezon City councilor Winnie Castelo (right) and Maynilad Commonwealth Business Center manager Eduardo del Mundo give the boys of Brgy. Bagong Silangan a bath after the inauguration of a Bayandhan Bayan Tubig in the area.

Julie (center), a corn vendor in Bloom St., Caloocan, can now wash her products with clean water straight from the tap.

Brgy. Payatas resident Yolanda Negos, who used to spend P5,000 a month for water bought from vendors, is now enjoying safe, reliable and cheap water flowing straight from her own faucet.

Children from Barangay Batasan Hills in Quezon City relish for the first time the pleasure of bathing in clean and potable water brought directly to their home.

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# Nick Joaquin's last book, on Ed Angara, launched

"ED ANGARA: SEED of Ilos and Ideas," the book by Nick Joaquin on the life and times of Senator Edgardo J. Angara, was launched yesterday in the Rockwell Loft in Makati City.

The book, which was one of the last works of the late National Artist for Literature, chronicles the journey of Angara from his childhood to his home province of Baler to his rise to national prominence. It provides a colorful account of the milestones in Angara's life—the trials and tribulations he faced as he struggled to achieve his personal and professional goals, his failures and successes, as well as his election and appointments.

Joaquin, who died two years ago, tells of the metamorphosis of Angara, from a shy boy to a legal luminary who founded one of the top law firms in the country and his later forays into public service, first as president of the University of the Philippines, then as senator, cabinet member, and again as senator.

## Guests

President Macapagal-Arroyo headed the list of prominent personalities who attended the book launching and received the first few copies of the book. Also present were Senate President Manuel Villar, Sen. Franklin Drilon, artist Abdul Imao, writer F. Sionil Jose, columnist Alejandro Roces, former UP President Jose Abueva, Angara's partners at the SGVFB law firm, lawyers Jose Concepcion, Avelino Cruz, Victor Lanuza and Rodolfo Ongkiko, Integrated Bar of the Philippines President Jose Anselmo, UP President Emerlinda Roman, Manuel Pamaran and libertarian Nini Quisumbing-Sumulong.

Rounding up the guests were Angara's relatives and close friends, province mates from Aurora, Quezon, as well as members of the Salaknib Baler diplomatic corps and Sa Lumang Lipunan Bumabangong Pilipino (LBP) party mates.

During the book launching, Angara said he owed Joaquin a debt of gratitude that he could never repay.

"This book was one of the last works of Nick Joaquin before he died. He accepted Geraldine with each other (and) had become close friends as her husband relieved me some stories about me (back when) he was a journalist at the Philippine Graphic."

## Elegant prose

"I have always been impressed by Nick's writing style, especially his elegant prose. He was truly an artist who used the written word as his medium and was a master at his craft," Angara added.

The 180-page book was started in May 2002 when Joaquin was working on the late Ambassador Salvador Araneta's biography. Ortiz, like Angara, is a co-founder of SGVFB, one of the country's top law firms today.

Published by the University of the Philippines Press, a hardbound copy of the book will sell for P700, with proceeds to go to the University of the Philippines.


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# Boyfriend tagged in Pinay's chop-chop slay in Israel

By Volt Contreras

ISRAELI POLICE have arrested a male suspect in the murder of a Filipino woman whose chopped-up remains were discovered in a garbage bump in Rishl'eion weeks ago, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The DFA said Ling Han Sim was arrested in Tel Aviv on Tuesday hours after an informant who saw Ling's photo on television tipped him off to authorities.

The suspect was reportedly a former boyfriend of the slain foreigner Michelle Alcantara-Jamias, 31, a native of Bacoor, Cavite.

Going a case update sent to the home office by Philippine Ambassador to Israel Tony Medina, DFA spokesman Eduardo Malaya said police have yet to establish the suspect's possible motive.

Jamias' dismembered body was found in the early hours of Nov. 4 in a garbage pile just across her flat on Ha Zipori Street, Haifa. Police surmised that she was killed the night before in her apartment. There were signs that the perpetrator tried to clean the place to wipe off the crime.

After an autopsy in Tel Aviv, the woman's remains were flown to Manila and claimed by relatives last 3rd undies.

Last week, Malaya reported that a certain Gunner surnamed only identified as "Ling" emerged as a suspect in the gruesome crime.

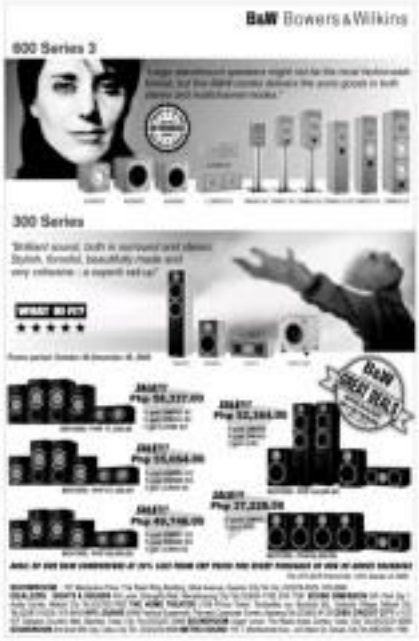
On another case involving a Filipino migrant worker, Malaya yesterday reported that the 17-year-old woman allegedly gang-raped in Kuwait by Bangladeshi nationals early this month has been recuperating well after undergoing spinal column surgery early this week.

Malaya said the DFA has also earlier urged the Philippine embassy in Kuwait to release $5,000 to help a lawyer who would prosecute the case.

An exciting weekend awaits at Prestige Cars BMW on November 18 & 19, 2006.

- **The Power 1 Right** - Test drive a BMW and get a chance to unlock the Power 1 vault containing the keys to a brand new BMW 1 Series.
- **Featured Models** - Discover the elements of modern sweetness featuring the BMW 325i Coupe and the BMW 645i/650i Coupe.
- **Pacquiao Live** - Catch the live telecast the Pacquiao-Morales match on November 18.*

Prestige Cars BMW





## AGAP APPEALS TO GMA:

## AGRI FARMERS LOSSES CAUSE HUNGER AND POVERTY TO FILIPINOS

The recent Social Weather Station (SWS) Survey result showing that 2.9 million Filipino families have nothing to eat at one time or another during the third quarter of 2006 strengthens the demand of the Agricultural Sector **Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP)** for immediate government action to save our local agricultural industry.

Out of the 2.9 million hungry Filipino families, 1.4 million families are in the rural areas. This alarming result shows that most of our farmers have been experiencing continued losses in their livelihood because of the following:

**I. RAMPANT SMUGGLING OF PORK, BEEF, CHICKEN, FISH, VEGETABLES AND RICE!** There is about a $10 Billion difference between the amount other countries export to us and the amount the Bureau of Customs reports as imports. On August 2006, P43.5 Million worth of smuggled pork and chicken from China was apprehended.

Last November 7, 2006, Tuesday, four container vans of smuggled meat worth P11.2 million was supposed to be condemned and buried in Sta. Rita Pampanga. Under the watchful eyes of AGAP representatives, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) representatives and the media, the supposed condemnation was delayed until November 10, 2006 only to find out the following:

1. The BAI seal was changed at the Customs.
2. More than half of the smuggled items were missing.
3. Upon reaching Guagua, Pampanga, it was found out that it did not have the necessary Mayor's Permit to bury the smuggled meat. They did not have any recourse but to return the smuggled items back to the Bureau of Customs.

This is a blatant example of apprehended smuggled items supposed to be for condemnation are smuggled once again inside the Bureau of Customs! Furthermore, there are still eleven (11) container vans of smuggled meat at the Manila International Container Port that have yet to be condemned and may very well be "smuggled" once again inside the Bureau of Customs if not stalled. These container vans should be inspected in the presence of the stakeholders, BAI and the media to ensure that the contents are still intact.

Smuggling is killing our farmer's livelihood. The backyard hog farmers alone are losing P2 Billion monthly due to the unfair competition brought about by smuggling. It also endangers our health as smuggled items may carry dangerous diseases such as bird flu and foot and mouth diseases and it robs our government of the much needed tax revenues.

The following actions should be immediately taken:

**A. REORGANIZE ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE.** For purposes of check and balance, the Anti- Smuggling Task Force should not be under the Bureau of Customs and it should have representation from the private stakeholders of the different sectors in the industry as it did when it was first formed.

**B. 100% INSPECTION OF ALL REFRIGERATED VANS**

**C. STRICT MONITORING OF ALL IMPORTED GOODS TO CURB "TECHNICAL SMUGGLING".** "Technical smuggling" is under valuation, under quantification, and misclassification of imported items. Our country is losing about Php60 Billion in tax revenues from smuggled and misdeclared imports.

**D. PROSECUTE SMUGGLERS.** There has been no report of any smuggler who was sent to jail. Smugglers are more notorious than any other criminals as they are robbing billions of farmers of their livelihood and they are also robbing our country of tax revenues.

**E. CONDEMN ALL SMUGGLED GOODS.** All confiscated smuggled goods should be immediately condemned by incineration or by pouring kerosene/gas over it in the presence of representatives from the different sectors of the industry. All actions should be done to prevent these smuggled items from reaching the Filipino consumers.

**EXCESSIVE IMPORTATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.** There is massive importation despite sufficiency in local production thereby killing the livelihood of our Filipino farmers. The Department of Agriculture should stop the annual issuance of import permits. Import permits should be issued quarterly depending on local supply. Only legitimate meat processors should be allowed to import carabeef from India and not the meat traders.

**DECREASE IN THE BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.** Since 2002, the budget allocation has been decreasing from P20 billion to only P15.8 Billion for 2006. In addition to the budget allocation for the Department of Agriculture it should have an additional P28 Billion allocation based on the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA). Adequacy in budget will enable department to fully support our farmers and 48% of Filipinos depending on agriculture.

**Protect the livelihood of our farmers to attain self sufficiency and food security!**

**To end hunger and poverty: President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo must stop smuggling and excessive importation of pork, beef, poultry, fish, vegetables and rice!**


**NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Chairman, Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP)
President, LAMOSMA Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Vice President - Luzon, National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc.
President, NGO Federation of Lipa
Director, National Swine Board

# Crash-landing at Naia diverts 9 flights

A TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT CARRYING NINE people, including five Central Bank staff members, crash landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday afternoon because of apparent mechanical problems, according to Naia officials.

No one was reported hurt in the mishap, but it disrupted almost 40 domestic and international flights that were scheduled to use Naia's Terminal 1 and 2 at press time.

At least 11 aircraft, mostly foreign airlines, were diverted to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the Clark Special Economic Zone while authorities struggled to haul the plane owned by Manila Air out of the Naia runway.

Nilo Cayaganan, executive vice president of the Clark International Airport Corp., said the Philippine Airlines-operated four-planet, Cebu Pacific, Jetstar, and Southwest, Saudi, Singapore, and Malaysian Airlines, one each.

The YS-11 type craft, which had been chartered by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, reassessed a "power steering problem" upon touchdown at Naia's runway 6 at around 2:25 p.m., according to an open source aviation incident.

Its right landing gear also collapsed, forcing it to swerve toward the grassy shoulder of the runway, Naia assistant general manager for security Angel Saavedra told the reporters.

At the controls of the unnerved cargo plane was Capt. Petnik Sanchez, with co-pilot Eusebio Tiglao and two mechanics.

The plane was chartered by the BSP to transport personnel from Manila to Tacloban and back. Naia records showed. Mel Lopez-Arao, and Bienvenido Orejana, PDI Central Luzon

AIRPORT emergency personnel work on the 3GO cargo plane from Tacloban City which crashlanded at the runway of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. None of the eight passengers and crew members of the plane were injured. AP PHOTO

# Shortfall seen in BIR collection

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKER WARNED yesterday that the Bureau of Internal Revenue would not meet its target this year because national and local government agencies themselves were not paying their proper taxes.

Rep. Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque called for a "realistic appraisal" of tax collection goals of the BIR in judging the collection performance of its officers.

Zialcita disclosed that while the BIR had collected a total of P480.8 billion from January to September, or more than 20 percent over the collection of P398 billion for the same period last year, "there are indications that the BIR may not meet its collection target of P675.3 billion this year because some of the assumptions in setting the target were off or did not materialize."

The Parañaque lawmaker, defending the BIR leadership, cited the following findings of the congressional committee on oversight over the BIR relating to tax remittances of government agencies:

■The value added taxes (VAT) collected from interest rates imposed on treasury bills turned out to be lower than projected. He said this was because actual interest rates charged by the Bureau of Treasury were lower than those projected by the revenue goal makers.

## VAT collection

■Value added taxes collected from importations of oil were credited to the Bureau of Customs when in fact the VAT is an internal revenue tax and should be properly credited to the BIR.

■Other government agencies have not been remitting to the BIR the correct amounts of taxes, further contributing to the shortfall.

■Local governments, like provinces, cities and municipalities have been remiss in forwarding to the BIR internal revenue taxes withheld from their employees and from other transactions. "But the local government units (LGUs) are insistent on receiving the internal revenue allotments (IRAs) promptly and in full, "he said.

Zialcita suggested that revenue goal setters should base their revenue projections on the growth rate of GDP (gross domestic product), which is the total production of goods and services, on which tax revenues, especially IVAT are based.

He said, for instance, that the BIR was being asked to collect next year P784 billion, or 16 percent more than the target set for this year.

"How can we expect the BIR to meet this goal when the best estimates of GDP growth as projected next year by the World Bank and other international financial agencies is 5.5 percent?" Zialcita said.

Zialcita is against penalizing underperforming revenue officers.

He pointed out that the Attrition Law, which goes into effect this year, would limit the promotion and other assignments of BIR officials and employees "no matter or not they shall be able to meet the collection goals set for them."

"But if we are going to apply this law fairly," defended Zialcita, "we must exercise very carefully the basis for judging the performance of the BIR personnel."

"Is their failure to meet their goals really due to their laxity and inefficiency, or is it due to other factors not within their control?"

He pointed out that the BIR has an authorized, with only 5,000 examiners and a budget of just P7 billion, compared to other revenue agencies like Customs.

Zialcita said that if the morale of government employees like those in the BIR was to be raised, the appraisal of their performance should "be fair and based on reality."

# Old 'RAMboys' distance selves from Gringo

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ONE OF FORMER SEN. GREGO-rio Honasan's co-conspirators in the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan (RAM) said yesterday the group would have nothing to do with Honasan any more.

"We have nothing to do with whatever he is accused of. We just have to move on. He has been a senator, he knows the law so he has to face the charges," said retired Navy Capt. Procias Maligalig.

Maligalig said Honasan was among the founders of RAM, originally called the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. The group's military officers have launched several coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late '80s.

RAM members were granted amnesty in 1995; some members opted to retire while some continued in the military service.

Maligalig, who said he now runs the 6000 Jeepney chair and spokesperson, currently works for the government as president of the nongovernment Bataan Shipyard Engineering Corp. (Basecu).

He has long been inactive in RAM even before Erap's ouster in 2001, so when the case about him," Maligalig said, adding that RAM was not involved in the destabilization plots being blamed on Honasan.

Honasan is chair of Philippine Constitution Revolutionary Inc. which claims about 150,000 members who are mostly retired military and police members.

"There is a little animosity between me because he is distracting himself from us. He is like a prodigal son," Maligalig said.

# Biazon vouches for Gringo's innocence in Oakwood mutiny

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON THURSday vouched for the innocency of his son, Gringo, in the Oakwood mutiny, saying the former colonel was there only to help avert bloodshed.

In a breakfast forum at the Senate, Biazon said Honasan would not have gone to the Oakwood Premiere hotel on that day had he not called him to help prevent a shootout between the mutinous soldiers and government troops.

Biazon made the statement a day after Honasan was arrested in a Quezon City townhouse and, facing almost nine months in hiding since the government accused him of involvement in the mutiny of the Magdalo soldiers and the Feb. 24, 2006, coup plot.

Biazon, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, said he was prepared to testify for Honasan, complaining that he was never summoned to the Oakwood inquiry to give his version of events and identify the persons alleged present during the mutiny at the Makati commercial center.

"I think my testimony would be important since I was there in the early morning of that day and I was the one who called up Honasan to help prevent bloodshed among the troops," said Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee.

Biazon said he had first telephoned then Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Edgardo Angara to inform them he was going to Oakwood. He was called up by Honasan to ask him to come as well.

"Can you help because if we are the ones who are there, those boys could believe us because of our historical background. We would be convincing if we ask them to prevent taking actions that could lead to bloodshed," Honasan recalled telling Honasan on the phone.

Honasan agreed and they had planned to leave at the Mac-Ardle Hotel adjacent to Oakwood. But Honasan called Biazon back to tell him that Lino Sy-Quia, lawyer of Lt. Jun Lim, had informed him that Lim would be arrested.

Biazon recalled that Honasan did not join him until about 3 p.m., after Malacañang granted Honasan's request to extend the deadline for the surrender of the Magdalo soldiers.

# 'Caught with pants down'; Gringo also stayed at Ingrid's Cebu homes

Front page A1

Magnolia St., Golden Ridge Subdivision, or at 2 Topacio Drive, Emerald Homes, both located in Cabancalan, Mandaue City, the source said.

Honasan's preference rooms at either of Ingrid's houses in Mandaue indicates that "he has known her for years," said the source who asked not to be named for security reasons.

Honasan has a running son "who is named after his uncle," the source also said.

At least two other sources, both from the police, confirmed to the reporter that Honasan and Ingrid had a son. But one source said the boy was in his early 20s; the other said 17.

### Vulnerable moment

The joint police and military team that captured Honasan outside Ingrid's townhouse caught him virtually "with his pants down," according to a member of the group.

"It was past midnight; he was resting. It was his most vulnerable moment," the source said.

Junior Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the National Bureau of Investigation would look into Ingrid's background to determine whether she could be held criminally liable for harboring a wanted man.

"We want to find out first if she is a coddler, or if she was one of those giving sanctuary to Senator Honasan when he was on the run, or whether this was just a casual visit of a friend," Gonzalez said yesterday.

The capture of Honasan ended rebu-mastter of hiding.

The 38-year-old cashiered colonel sprained a foot and suffered cuts on the side of the other after jumping from the window of the master bedroom of Ingrid's townhouse.

He is undergoing treatment at the Asian Hospital pending a petition for bail.

### Strong words

Honasan's capture outside Ingrid's townhouse triggered a quarrel between him and his wife Jane at the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame, according to one source.

"Pinag-awayan niya yun (They fought over that)," the source said, adding that in her rage, Jane let loose with some "very strong words."

Another source said she left in a huff shortly afterward.

Ingrid, who is the first lady of Cebu province as Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia is at Camp Crame, about 30 minutes after his capture.

On Tuesday evening, Honasan left his mother's house at Fedsteel Valley in Cainta (his hometown, Malolos, is near by) and his family live, without telling his wife that he was going to see Ingrid, the source said.

Gonzalez said it would be up to Ramon to prove that the arrest was illegal, but added it was unlikely that she was unaware of the ex-senator's status as a wanted man.

"The only problem here is that in the case of Ma'am, it is impossible she would not know about Honasan's being hunted by the government. So the mere fact that she let him into her house and allowed him to stay there, let's say for a time, is already something that I think she should explain to us," the justice secretary said.

In reply to a question, Gonzalez said Ramon should have expected Honasan's presence to the police when he showed up at her doorstep.

"That depends. If, for example, she knew he was a fugitive and she allowed him inside, even only on appeal, she should have reported it to authorities," Gonzalez said.

"But since it was night, there might be an element of surprise. Let's give her the benefit of the doubt," he added.

### Occupants held

Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the CIDG Makati-Pasay-Capital Region, refused to disclose who was inside Ramon' townhouse at the time of Honasan's capture but said the occupants were initially "held."

"I ordered the holding of the occupants because they might pose a threat to the ongoing operations. When we initiated our objective of arresting Honasan, and we know that those persons did not pose a threat to our operations, we immediately released them and [left] the place," Dolina said.

He also said he saw no need to arrest anyone else. "We did not effect the arrest of persons inside the house because at that time, we did not find out if they were in any way connected with the investigation."

CIDG Director Arnulfo Marcelo told reporters at Camp Crame that "further investigation" was being conducted on Ramon. "We will file appropriate charges, probably for harboring a fugitive," he said.

Ramon was said to be a former secretary of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, but the latter has denied knowing her.

Marcelo said the CIDG had gathered "some background" on Ramon but was not at liberty to divulge it.

Dolina also said an investigation of personnel closer to Honasan, as well as other persons who had helped him elude arrest, was ongoing.

He did not elaborate, but said the results of the intelligence operations would be released to the media.

# GMA wants all coup plotters arrested

By Jeannette I. Andrade
Front page A1

country.

Ermita said the immediate concern of the government was to ensure that Honasan does not escape as the government steps up the trial against the cashiered military officers.

Reynaldo Esmeralda, deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, said he hoped the capture of Honasan would strengthen its inquiry into the February coup plot.

Last month, the NBI and the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group recommended to the Department of Justice the filing of rebellion charges against 49 people, including Honasan, Mid. Gen. Renato Miranda and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

Esmeralda said the NBI would also investigate Honasan's alleged coddlers.

"By finding out where he stayed and who he talked to while in hiding, we hope to uncover more evidence to know who were the other parties involved, especially the financiers behind the February plot," he said.

### Background check

The NBI is also conducting a background investigation of people who allegedly helped Honasan while in hiding, including Ingrid Ramos, reportedly the owner of the Quezon City townhouse where the former army colonel was captured. (See Sunstar story on Page A2)

Jaime H. Bautista, Honasan's driver and aide who was also arrested on Wednesday, faced an inquest yesterday at the Quezon City prosecutor's office. Assistant city prosecutors Jean Bustalim recommended charges of obstruction of arrest and prosecution of a criminal offender and set bail at P12,000. With reports from Tina G. Santos and Ed Sip

# *Medical bulletin*

FORMER SEN. GREGORIO HONASAN SUFfered a deep cut in his right foot and abrasions to the other when he attempted to elude pursuing policemen. He slipped through a second floor window of a Quezon City townhouse, hopped from roof to roof and banged on the ground before being cornered by police.

Honasan was transferred to the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Muntinlupa City after initial treatment at the Philippine National Police hospital.

Doctors said Honasan had a slight fever on Thursday night but was now in stable condition. "We need to load him with antibiotics for a couple of days to control any infection and contamination," said Dr. Francisco Abaya Jr.

The fugitive ex-general in his right foot once, several fine contusions. Doctors were preparing to put his left foot in a cast.

# Honasan out to win Senate seat

From page A1

Some said Honasan's arrest and the charges leveled against him he alleged participating in the June 2003 Oakwood mutiny and a failed coup attempt in February would have both plus and minuses on the candidacy.

### Still on top of surveys

But Sonia said Honasan, a hero of the 1986 People Power revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and later the leader of coup attempts against former President Corazon Aquino whom he helped install, had been on the top of surveys of possible senatorial candidates.

A Pulse Asia survey in July put Honasan in ninth place of the top 12 potential candidates with a chance of winning the May 2007 senatorial elections.

Honasan has served two terms as a senator from 1995 to 2004.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon told the same forum that the opposition should not change its plan to draft Honasan in its senatorial ticket.

"This is a democracy and the charges against him have yet to be proven," Biazon said. (See related story on this page.)

Sonia and Ocampo, themselves angling for a Senate comeback, said Honasan had wanted to surface and face the charges against him before his arrest.

"We were hoping he could come out before Christmas to straighten things out and we are also in a hurry because for one thing, we believe Greg is innocent," Sonia said at the Senate forum.

Sonia's sister-in-law and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's statement that the surrender talks had bogged down because Honasan wanted the charges against him dropped in exchange for cooperating with the government.

### Not asking for conditions

Sonia said Honasan only wanted to be accorded due process and not be treated as one guilty of rebellion and planning a coup. "He was not asking for conditions," he said.

Social Transformation Secretary Lourdes Montinola, one of those who received the surrender broken, was aware that Honasan was not seeking conditions for his surrender. "It was due process that we were asking for," Sonia said. "He was only asking for a preliminary investigation so he would post bail. But he is going to fight the case in court."

Retired Commodore Rex Robles said the capture of Honasan had thrust him back into the political limelight.

"It's a fugitive, he certainly can't run for public office," said Robles, a former Honasan colleague. "But as a captive, the obstacle to his political ambition has been removed because he can now run for public office to keep on his throne's per cubicle." With reports from Nicole Pepa, TJ Burgonio and Jeremie Asuncion

# *Actor Clooney named 'sexiest man alive'*

From page A1

for Brad since he's been "Senior Miss Alive" lately," Clooney joked in an interview with People. "He's enjoyed that tremendously. I was there [Sen. Alive] to him, and he'd go, 'Two-time.' So that's been taken away."

Cynthia Sims, a member of the magazine's editorial panel that selects its "sexiest man" each year, said Clooney's win was on his a combination of factors.

### Also available

"His big movies came out at the end of last year, he has been active in the campaign to help people in Darfur, obviously he's a great looking—we just thought he was the total package this year," she told Reuters.

Sims added that Clooney's status as one of the world's most eligible bachelors helped: "It's a little more fun when the sexiest man alive is available," she said.

In the early 1980s, Clooney headed to Hollywood to pursue his true fortune to work as a stand-up for his aunt, singer Rosemary Clooney before making his own way in show business.

He got his big break on the TV medical drama "ER," playing pediatrician Dr. Doug Ross. After leaving the show, he went on to exhibit himself as an A-list leading man.

Last year, his status as a Hollywood heavyweight in front of and behind the camera was cemented by his work in two acclaimed films—the political thriller "Syriana" and the Mc-Carthy era drama "Good Night, and Good Luck," which he directed, co-wrote and acted in.

Besides winning the Academy Award for playing a CIA agent in "Syriana," Clooney earned an Oscar nomination as best director for "Good Night, and Good Luck," becoming the first person to be nominated for acting and directing in two different films in the same year. "Good Night" also earned Clooney a nomination for best original screenplay.

### Poking fun at self

Taking fun at his no-symbol status, Clooney feigned exasperation over the burden of the new title.

"There are all the women you have to show up for. The outfit you have to wear—this is embarrassing. There's pressure to remain sexy," he said, tongue-in-cheek.

He added: "If we can verify that persons who coddled Senator Honasan are going abroad, and if we will be filing cases against them, we might request that hold-departure orders be issued."

### Sotto

Gonzales had earlier said he ordered the NBI to investigate the people who gave sanctuary to Honasan when he was on the run.

Asked if ex-Sen. Vicente Sotto III—who spoke with reporters on Wednesday as though he were privy to what had actually happened...was under suspicion as a coddler, Gonzales said perhaps that Sotto just wanted a share of the spotlight because he had plans of running again for the Senate next year.

Honasan was two hiding instinctively after being linked to the purported Left-Right coup plot of Feb. 24.

But he was arrested on the strength of a warrant issued in connection with his alleged involvement in the Oakwood mutiny of July 2003.

NO SURPRISES HERE: For the second time around People magazine has named actor George Clooney the "Sexiest Man Alive" in its annual listing.

# Migration weakening Filipino family–DSWD

By Cynthia G. Balana

THE MASSIVE MIGRATION of workers overseas and a fast-growing population are weakening the Filipino family which has remained among the poorest in the world, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said.

In a recent report delivered during the Second Jose Aniceto Ministerial Forum on Families held in Singapore from Nov. 6 to 7, Cabral said it was "quite a functional literacy rate of 82.9 percent for men and 86.3 percent for women, 50 percent of the people were still poor.

She said that while unemployment decreased to 7.8 percent in 2005 from 11.4 percent in 2004, the creation of new jobs remained slow, resulting in the increase in the number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

From at least eight million Filipinos already working abroad in 2004, the number increased by 2.25 percent or 1.3 million in 2005.

Cabral also expressed alarm over the growing "demographic imbalance" of the migration. Female nevertheless, comprised 72 percent of total deployment in 2005.

Cabral said that while OFWs contribute much to the country's economic gains, the increased numbers of parents now working abroad has resulted in the widespread separation of families.

Worse, it has also led to a radical change in the family structure, the emergence of solo parents and female-headed households, and households headed by older children of OFWs.

Cabral said that like other distant relatives, mothers are perceived as the best teachers of Filipino children and play a crucial role in their formation and transition to adulthood.

"The tragedy is that while their mothers work for families abroad, millions of Filipino children grow up without their mothers," Cabral lamented.

"With children comprising 43 percent of by 85 million people, the country's young population needs not just financial but also psychological support and guidance from their parents."

Cabral said that the massive migration of workers likewise posed a threat to national development as more and more skilled workers and professionals opt to work abroad to support their families. As a result, the country is now left with fewer skilled workers and professionals to help with nation-building.

To counter the effects of globalization and poverty, Cabral said that efforts were underway to protect the Filipino family and improve its resiliency. These include expanding opportunities for employment, improving maternal and child care, and enforcing family laws.

"The Philippines upholds the dignity of the family because we believe that investing in the Filipino family is investing in our country's future."

On a larger scale, Cabral said that the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, the country's 10-point agenda based on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, targets the creation of eight to 10 million jobs by 2010 through expanding industries like housing, tourism, construction, mining and agriculture.

She said the government was also trying to slow down population growth, and reduce child mortality.

Legislative measures on the protection of the Filipino family were also put in place such as laws against child labor, laws protecting women and children from abuse, the expanded Senior Citizens Act, and tax incentives to those who support their aged parents.

She said the Expanded Maternity Leave Act of 2006 was enacted into law. The implementation of the National Drug Plan for the Filipino Family (2005-2025), is also being monitored.

Among the departments of the government, the Department of Health is implementing the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Program and the Supplemental Feeding Program are being supervised by the LGSUs and the Department of Education to address hunger among grade-school children to public schools.

The National Committee on the Filipino Family was also created to advocate and oversee the adoption of these laws. Abroad, the International Social Welfare Services for Filipino-Intimate provides counseling and shelter for migrant workers in crisis.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# Joker chides solon for blocking rights bill

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION REP. JOKER ARROYO yesterday chided Albay Rep. Jory Salceda for trying to throw a monkey wrench into a landmark bill which would compensate thousands of victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime by claiming the proposed law on flawed, and hence, could not be enforced.

Salceda, chair of the House appropriations committee, had cautioned on Wednesday that the bill did not pass through his committee, and therefore its budget provisions would make for an implementation among 9,539 documented human rights victims, even if it were passed into law.

Contrary to these claims, Arroyo said that the House had given its approval when it passed the measure in plenary in June, and that both panels in the bicameral conference committee were now close to consolidating their versions for possible ratification next week.

### 'Procedural lapse'

"Whatever he (Salceda) says has no value. Whatever is approved in plenary in either chamber is final and cures any defect in procedure," he said in an interview, scoffing at Salceda's claims.

Salceda also got flak from opposition members of the House, "He is heartless," said party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño, adding that any move to block the release of compensation to human rights victims is "hypocrisy motivated by the Arroyo regime's greed for money."

In this Salceda shot back: "Am I so blame for making that final undertaking which could deprive human rights victims of justice after 20 years? They can always disregard my advice."

Arroyo, who gathered the Senate version with Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and chairs the bicameral panel, also reminded the congressmen that he should have raised the "procedural lapse" during the period of interpellation and amendments in the second reading, where objections, defects and amendments are investigated on the floor, as spelled out in the House and Senate rules.

"That's the House rules; that's the Senate rules," he said, chiding the congressmen for not heeding up on Congress rules.

### Available money

"Chairperson Salceda should absorb and breathe the rules. It will add on his height mind instead of throwing monkey wrenches at this late stage of the human rights compensation bill and inflicting others to undermine it," he added in a statement.

The proposed bill seeks to compensate those who suffered human rights violations from 1972 to 1986 with P10 billion. The upper chamber subsequently enacted to omit provision which pegged the compensation at P10 billion, paving the way for the crowning of the bicameral conference committee.

Budget Secretary Salceda reiterates, on the sidelines of the Senate hearing on the 2006 supplemental budget, had assured the senators that the money allotted for the compensation of the human rights victims, whether P8 billion or P10 billion, was "intact and available." The compensation is part of the $680 million in Marcos wealth recovered from Swiss banks.

After a series of bilateral meetings, both the House and Senate panels agreed on the P10-billion compensation. They were now fine-tuning the language and had given themselves until next week to wrap this up, according to sources.

"Everything is ironed out; everything is settled," said Arroyo.

Salceda, however, stood pat on what he had said. "It was people and my duty to express such procedural infirmity for the good of everyone. I am just warning them while there is still time to do what is procedurally correct."

He said he didn't disavow Casiño's "sarcasm and strong adjectives."

"It's useless to me and a distraction to sound policy discussion. What is only a point of information, an advice and a warning," said Salceda.

The lawmaker had pointed out that the bill calls for the creation of a compensation board and that alone would need funds for its operation. He suggested that the bill be returned to his committee as the procedural omissions could be corrected.

Continued Salceda: "I thought they would appreciate my commitment to expedite the process to see rolling."

## Schools off-limits to belchers today

SCHOOLS WILL BE OFF-LIMITS TO SMOKE belchers today.

Around 50 schools all over the country would ban the entry of smoke-belching vehicles in their premises as part of the celebration of Clean Air month this November.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said the schools were joining the celebration for the second consecutive year as part of the government's Huwag Tumbukot campaign.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been trying to locate support from various sectors to address the problem of air pollution, which studies have shown is caused mainly by mobile sources. Blanche S. Rivera

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 17, 2006
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Elizabeth of Hungary

1st Reading: John 4:1-9
Gospel: Luke 17:26-37

Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be on the day the Son of Man comes. Then people ate and drank, they took husbands and wives. But on the day Noah entered the ark, the flood came and destroyed them all. Just as it was in the days of Lot: people ate and drank, they bought and sold, planted and built, but on the day Lot left Sodom, God sends fire and sulfur rain down from heaven which destroyed them all. So will it be on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

"On that day, if you are on the rooftop, don't go down into the house to get your belongings; and if you happen to be in the fields, do not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever tries to save his life will lose himself, but whoever gives his life will be born again.

"I tell you, though two men are sharing the same bed, it may be that one will be taken and the other left. Though two women are grinding corn together, one may be taken and the other left."

Then they asked Jesus, "Where will this take place, Lord?" And he answered, "Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather."

Commentary:

*John writes to a woman friend about the commandment of love, pleading for understanding of its meaning and practice, and that all who read the letter may search themselves and not be deceived by others. The Word, the preaching, is somehow the presence of the Father and the Son within them, by the power of the Spirit. Which? Jesus tries out—we don't know where the line of ideas will come to judgment and justice upon the earth for all of us. It is not important to know the precise time; what is essential is that we live faithfully everyday, so that day will be welcomed, not feared. In the Word and the Father and Spirit within us? Are we keeping watch and loving one another?*

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**BON APPETIT**
French chef John Brumaresa of the renowned Alain Ducasse Training Center is in Manila to conduct demonstration classes featuring multi-ethnic cuisine today (1-5 p.m.) and tomorrow (10 a.m.–2 p.m.) at the demonstration of the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. The "Cooking Under Influences" classes are part of activities marking the 10th anniversary of the CCA, whose founder and president, Susana P. Guerrero, was recently given the 2006 Malcolm Gold Award for her contributions to the Philippine hospitality industry. Brumaresa arrived in Manila on Tuesday.

# Top Customs exec flunks lifestyle check

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN'S FELLOWS INVESTIGATION Office has filed complaints' worth raps against a high-ranking official of the Bureau of Customs whose family allegedly acquired much of land in luxury, Batangas, despite declared earnings of only P292,000 annually.

In a four-page complaint filed with the Ombudsman's internal affairs, graft investigation and prosecution officer Maria Elena Bonus said that a lifestyle check on Customs official Nemesio Gualberto showed several big pieces of property under his name and that of his spouse that were undeclared in his statements of assets and liabilities.

Gualberto, a retired police officer, has denied the graft allegations. He said a group that was opposed to his appointment as officer-in-charge of the bureau's intelligence and enforcement group was behind the claims.

The FIO report questioned how Gualberto acquired a farm lot in Sanggrey Nasugbu Cavite to convey, Batangas. Three more lots, including a 3.68-square kilometer prime beachfront property, were also discovered in the names of his daughters.

**No income records**

"Verification with the BIR shows that (Gualberto's daughters) have no records of income tax returns, copy, they have no known sources of regular income," the field report read.

"This evidences the strong conviction that the real owner to the names of the subject's daughters are unexplained assets and concealed for purposes of evading detection in lifestyle investigations."

The FIO investigation also showed that Gualberto is the owner of a 1997 model BMW sedan in Pajero, which he reportedly paid for in cash despite the vehicle's being registered under another name.

He also reportedly failed to file statements of assets, liabilities and net worth for several years. The FIO recommended he be placed on six-month preventive suspension pending investigation of the charges.

Gualberto began his career as a policeman and rose to become chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. After retirement, he worked at the Department of Transportation and Communications.

**Inheritance**

Gualberto filed last week his counter affidavit to the accusations.

According to him, he bought the luxury, Batangas properties in 2002 using his retirement pay from the PNP. He said he got P1.9 million when he left the service, and bought the property for P1.2 million. He also said he had declared property in Batangas.

There was also Batangas property placed in the name of his daughters because they inherited it from their mother, his late first wife, he explained. He has a second wife.

The Customs officer added that the Pajero he has been using was lent to him by his cousin after he insisted that he (Gualberto) had sold his Land Cruiser to settle to pay for medication for his heart ailment.

The vehicle, he said, was not even top-of-the-line, because it was removed from right-hand drive to left-hand drive.

Gualberto said in a phone interview with the reporter that he has regularly filed his declarations of assets and liabilities since 1972.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OPINION

## Dangerous game

THE SWASHBUCKLING MYSTIQUE OF GREGORIO "Gringo" Honasan literally suffered a crippling blow when he was finally apprehended after nine months of living a fugitive existence. Just as Honasan's escape have always failed, his great escapes have always ended up with him being captured. Whether Honasan leaped from a car or from the window of a townhouse in

**EDITORIAL**

beside the police: anyone his age (58) should leave such things for more agile men in their fifties.

But now that he's been caught, how should he be treated?

As far as the military and police are concerned, apparently with kid gloves. No surprise there, by virtue of Honasan's former military rank (colonel), and his being a former—and possibly future—senator. Certainly, he is the last person in the country who should worry about being maltreated while under military or police custody.

As far as the administration is concerned, he should be dealt with with the full force of the law. He needs to be, not because of anything he's really done—in military circles, the aging gunslinger has been a peripheral and not particularly well-trained figure for years—but because of what he represents. He stands for the vindication of the Palace's fire-breathing statement of a nonexistent military conspiracy to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo. And now at least, the accusations can be leveled in court.

Honasan, ironically, can join Arabjaneth Rep. Crispin Beltran in challenging government charges on the ground that such suspicions are based largely on their having once been rebels, even though they have been the beneficiaries of subsequent amnesties (Beltran got his from President Corazon Aquino; Honasan received his from President Fidel V. Ramos). But while Beltran has not been in the habit of hiding from his accusers, the Honasan of today is identical to the Honasan of yesterday—if not a categorical plotter, then a perennial runaway.

Still, the point has to be made: rumormongers and evil-minded rebels have become the chief beneficiaries of administration press releases, her having charges actually substantiated and tried is something that has been denied Beltran and just as likely will be denied Honasan. The greater scandal to us is that Beltran continues to be under hospital detention, a situation Honasan will be facing for at least some weeks to come. A government intent on justice and enforcing the law should be moving for a speedy trial for both. But will it? Politically speaking, can it do so?

A further irony is revealed by this dilemma: Honasan and the Palace both depend on the Honasan myth as an effective and fearsome rebel argument. A government that is unable to prove that Honasan is anything more than a schemer addicted to rebel conspiracies is one that will be hard-put to explain just how serious it got last February, when Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's efforts to pull off a withdrawal of support from the President failed more dismally than it was supposed to take place. If Honasan, on the other hand, is shown up to be nothing more than a flawed—and failed—plotter unable to outsmart, much less, lead a respectably-sized rebel force, then he will end up exposed as just another part of the lunatic fringe in the military establishment.

But in these things as in other by perennially just pending a trial, would serve Palace and captured pretender equally well, politically. Honasan can strike heroic poses on his way to and from court; the Palace can keep him in hand and make a Senate campaign much more difficult than it otherwise might have been.

Both, however are playing a dangerous game and most dangerous of all is the way Honasan is once more being licensed by those susceptible to the myth of the bell for leaches rebel leader. Such a basis of popularity can only foster what Inquirer columnist Amando Doronila warned against in his most recent analysis: opportunists lurk in and on the same time, yet another opportunity for the administration to obfuscate the issues. The issue being sowed within the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the eagerness of the Palace to weaken the war against its enemies to keep the military cohesive and compliant.

They say old soldiers never die, they just fade away. This is one old soldier who should simply fade away.

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## Mall operator grabs P.5-billion lot from gov't

*Neal H. Cruz*

**AS I SEE IT**

WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH SQUATTERS grabbing somebody else's property and later grabbing rank-and-file illegally occupying forest and parklands. But have you encountered a case of a business corporation grabbing a big piece of government land right in the middle of Metro Manila, include a mass revenue and building a huge shopping mall and drinking profit from it for years without paying the government a single centavo? And all done with the knowledge and cooperation and possible connivance of high government officials in stealing the Commonwealth and the courts.

Yes, sir, only in the Philippines. The huge Ever Commonwealth mall on Aurora Blvd. in Commonwealth, just across the street from the Batasang Pambansa complex, stands on what used to be the campus of the Cecilio Apostol Elementary School. The land is more than 5.26 hectares in size and used to be Caloocan City's property. In 1990, it had an assessed value of P300 million. But it was titled to Ever Commonwealth without the latter paying the Caloocan government even one peso. For the conniving, top officials of the Commission on Audit, the Land Registration Authority, the Department of Justice and the Office of the President, and the Register of Deeds who could have prevented the deal, allowed it to push through, thus depriving the people of Caloocan of at least half a billion pesos. Worse, the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court have been sitting on the case for years, thus allowing Ever Commonwealth to derive profit from the property without paying the city government anything.

There is how it was done, as summarized in the investigation reports of the National Bureau of Investigation and then Senate committees.

In 1980, the city leased the land to Ever for 25 years at which it was to build a shopping mall on a build-operate-transfer basis. In 1990, the city represented by then Mayor Mercedes Asistio Jr. executed an absolute deed of sale conveying the property to Ever for P6,000 per sq.m. This price was found by the Commission on Audit (COA) to be P10,000 lower than the appraised value, so the sale was aborted.

No reconsideration or appeal was taken either by the Caloocan government or by Ever. Instead, Ever filed a petition with the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court (RTC) asking that the COA disapproval of the deal be annulled.

Ever, however, did not relent in its bid to gain title to the land. Five years later, in 1995, after Asistio's successor, Enrique Echiverri, issued a supposedly reconsideration of the 1990 COA ruling disapproving the sale, without informing the city government.

Echiverri succeeded two years later, when Gangan approved the sale on June 5, 1997, provided that the purchase price be increased from P6,000 per sq.m. to P8,826.39—still way below the appraised value of P10,000 per sq.m.

The timely objection of COA Local Government Unit (LGU) Director Generoso Santos that the sale of the property in favor of Caloocan had no benefit of public auction, bidding and that there was no compliance with applicable laws and rules and regulations, were ignored by the COA panel.

Having succeeded in gaining COA approval, Echiverri then caused the issuance of the following:

1. City Ordinance 0227, s.1997, adopting the COA decision and this time authorizing Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo (who had defeated Asistio in the 1995 election) to execute the supplemental instrument of sale to conform to the COA ruling. Malonzo owned the ordinance.

2. Sangguniang Panglungsod Resolution 0606 dated Nov. 13, 1997, sponsored by Malonzo's SBO.

3. A formal opinion from Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez of the DILG, dated March 12, 1998, asserting that a supplemental or amendatory title to the land without paying for it. On April 15, 1998, the Register of Deeds of Caloocan City, Atty. Yolanda Alfonso, issued a title to Ever's name and cancelled the title of Caloocan City—without any payment or consideration.

The joint committees found the transfer not only anomalous but null and void for lack of consideration. "Ever is required and is not subscribed about P500,000,000 but did not pay for it," the joint committees said. "Ever is made profitable use of the land by constructing and operating a mall on it, earning huge rentals thereon, without paying a single centavo on even for real estate taxes, which since amount to about P300,000,000. Ever is made a tenders of the legal names, aided and abetted by local government officials and court officers who betrayed their duties and the faith of the public interest.

"In short, Ever has not acquired a P500 million property owned by Caloocan City without paying for it, built a mall thereon and earning high rentals thereon, and on top of that has not paid land taxes on the property now amounting to an additional P300 million." What an achievement that any opera artist would have been proud to have pulled off!

How did Ever's lawyers succeed with scores of government officials watching? That will be explained in the next installment.

## 'Boy Scout na babae'

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

**PASSION FOR REASON**

THERE IS MORE TO THE CURRENT DEBATE between the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. It has to do with the "freedom of expressive association," and the power of organizations to forbid and to exclude people they like or dislike. And so, we must give credit to the Boy Scouts and those who support their opposition to sex thinking.

That the Boy Scouts will henceforth allow girls into their ranks will be made possible in two ways: first, and very significant here, by the ordinary act of the organization's board; and second, possibly by an act of Congress, that is to say, by order of the state.

Newspapers have reported that, in August this year, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) opened the door to million-strong organization to girl scouts. Last 11 to 13 October, three days first engineer with its counterpart organization, the Girl Scouts (GSP). The BSP also required the girls to get "parental or guardian consent" before camping with the boys.

This will "provide equal opportunities and equal participation [to] young people, both within a scouting and in [the] local, national and international community," the BSP board said. It will teach them to "respect their individual differences, and go beyond traditional gender roles," in keeping with global trends in the scout movement to encourage female participation.

Mahalat Shaye Jacinto-Henares, national president of the BSP said the executive board opened the doors to girl scouts who no longer have social activities beyond a certain age. This also gives them equal opportunities in scouting work.

Also, there is a pending bill filed by Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, allowing the inclusion of girls into the BSP, which will be renamed Scouts Philippines. The BSP charter is embedded in Commonwealth Act, and can therefore be amended by Congress. The bill also specifically proposes to name the President as the Chief Scout of the Philippines. (This displacing Jojo Binay? Wow! I see the fists flexing; I would have suspected that the Palace, having failed to challenge Aquino-Oreta, would have preferred to keep the ordinary Scouting movement.)

Of course there is absolutely nothing, not one legitimate goal to "to develop girls into ethical women." Esperanza Bunoy, GSP Central Board Member, says: "While the BSP dwell[s] on making headcounters and defenders out of young boys, the GSP teaches girls to become skilled homemakers, leaders and future mothers."

To their credit, however, the GSP officials add: "We do as many challenges now as the boy scouts like, for example: relevant programs like activities about HIV-AIDS, and how to be runners ... reproductive health, menstruation and sex ed for girls."

The US Supreme Court has recognized that the Boy Scouts, since they teach a value system to their members, are entitled to the right of expressive association. "The Boy Scouts has a First Amendment right to choose to send any message but not the other. The fact that [the organization does not] engage in certain activities [homosexual, or that it tolerates dissent within its ranks, does not mean that its views receive no First Amendment protection."

As such, the COURT affirmed the Scouts' power to "pick and choose" its members. "Forcing a group to accept certain members may impair the ability of the group to express those views, and only those views, that it intends to express. "Freedom of association ... plainly presupposes a freedom not to associate." (A real result of the doctrine was to allow the boy Scouts to exclude a gay (right-wing) scout, on the ground that its organization did not want to promote homosexuality, dissident as a legitimate form of behavior.)

Constant Oak is another refuge against the Jurassic and history Clubs, which were deemed not sufficiently "expressive" in nature, and were thus ordered to include women as full voting members. Their submission, the Court said, will not impede the clubs' ability to disseminate their views, which must in the end yield to the overriding social-national mandate against gender-based discrimination.

Beyond these theories, I suppose the Girl Scouts' most formidable opponents to the ban were not girls to go camping out there in the woods with the boys! That indeed would be a scary thought, especially for parents.

But there is a false argument: Organizing seminars and fellowships jointly for boys and girls is one thing. Organizing overnight camps is another. Girls and boys, it is said, should be subject to parental controls and guidelines. My youngest son Miguel was an active cub scout, and they actually had a mixed camp, but it was such a rare event that he didn't bother to mention (to "Mikol" night until years later, over dinner with the family) that they (when I was raised the topic of this column, let we parents follow a simple formula. This complication is unnecessary. There are enough problems outcast it. Ah, let this, I need to take refuge in the words of Louis Brandeis.

In the true experimentation in things social and economic, a grave responsibility... This Court has the power to prevent an experiment. We may strike down the statute which embodies it on the ground that [it] is submit any court close or unreasonable... But in the exercise of this high power, we must be ever on our guard, lest we erect our personalities into legal principles. If we would guide by the light of reason, we must let our minds be kept."

In a way, this debate has to do with First culture, our penchant for exclusivity our fraternal tendencies and banning others into our circle. The scouting activities should help us see through our own illusions about ourselves, and thank god for a greater emotional and empowering scouting movement.

# Short-sighted views on Honasan arrest

ANALYSIS

*Amando Doronila*

GENERAL (ret.) GREGORIO HONASAN had studied arrest for nine months and in the Philippine version of Clint Eastwood's exciting cat-and-mouse game between him and the police, he was finally cornered and captured in the Tahimik area in Quezon City on November 9, ending one of the most fanciful manhunts in Philippine criminal history in recent years. That Honasan had evaded arrest for so long despite the fact that the police knew the location of his safe houses and the names of those who provided him support is a testament to the ineptness of the police and the military.

Honasan has been linked in nearly a dozen attempted coups since 1986, when President Ferdinand Marcos slipped a coup plot of the Reformed the Armed Forces Movement which planned to launch a military junta to be led by Marcos' defense minister, Juan Ponce Enrile. The capture of Honasan, who was the leader of the last of the coups, following further the logical succeeding Honasan as an unstoppable coup maker leading a disarmed Philippine army immobilized and fearing government activities. The government and police combat intelligence drove them to capture.

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# We never left RP

LETTERS

THIS IS A REACTION TO EDWARD JE Quiroz' Nov. 9 column. I'm glad he understands our frustrations and the reasons we left our country.

But we never left. We keep coming back. In fact, it is already a joke that many Filipinos spend more on visits only to the Philippines.

Look at the tourism. Quite a few of my friends have already settled there comfortably and have still fallen. They have had enough of the hectic life here. The countless unwary drowned with the entire towns—tricycle, pedicab, fighting, social unrest, poverty, worsening domestic violence, volunteering at local hospitals and other good things a responsible citizen does in a community. Music seem to follow him the skyrocketing price of land a looking individuals.

Maybe, we should imitate Italy. The Italian government helps the rural area by giving cheap low-interest loans to buy their homes. Owners of an ruins are encouraged to restore history per month, like to honestly not heavy-fine for building a park or playground or improve the services of our ill-equipped local hospital. We need, but it is like banging one's head against a brick wall. Maybe, with the power-sharing pact, De Quiroz can help us.

Dr Quiroz should keep up the good work. Maybe, there is still hope in spite of her flaw.

—JUDITH LEELIAN,
hairishan@yahoo.com

# Screwed thrice

I WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO GOT CAUGHT in a motorcade traffic jam when the presidential motorcade coming down the Mabolo-Banilad. I would like to ask a few questions from our "motorcade."

1. Why were you using the sirens are can per-mit-ted in the streets to clear them billboards put up by private entities for their profit? Shouldn't they have opens for it?

2. I do not remember encountering any traffic jam when these billboards were put up. Why were there such monstrous traffic jams when they were being taken down? I smell incompetence.

3. I read somewhere that some of these billboards were put up without permit and were therefore illegal. If something is illegal, i.e. demonstration or mendicancy was a violation of a law. So, when could we see people being prosecuted and sent to jail for violating the law? Or are we going to see another whitewash, in which these were a crime but no criminals?

4. So, who is going to pay the ordinary citizens for all the inconvenience and expenses brought about by this billboard fiasco? As I see it, the citizens were screwed twice over: once when the authorities looked the other way and put and up and while all these billboards were being put up in violation of the law; a second time when their taxes were used to take down the very same billboards, and related activities. Need to mention the inconvenience traffic jams caused by the inconsiderate scheduling of the billboard removal.

I think I speak for a lot of my fellow citizens when I say heads should roll! And the comedy officials who approved these billboards regardless with whoever bribed them! While both or is, make that proportion as well! Shame that corruption does no just!

Bro there, some Filipinos ngayon ala. Nobody is prosecuted here, unless pero critic

## Voices on INQ7.net

sank. The big fish always get away. What a country we have.—Brenda Montreal, Quezon City (via e-mail)

* * *

"You can finish." This is the most common excuse of our public servants, be they civilian, police or military. "Blame the insurgents," they chorus.

Don't they know that the reason they were "hired" by us is to make our environment peaceful? That we pay them their salary to get rules over our country? If they cannot fulfill their basic duty, then they should get out of the service.—Herbert Glaser, Buenos Caribe (via e-mail)

* * *

Sec. Ishmael Defensor Santiago's appointment of the possibility that she will not be appointed by her relatives in blackmailing to replace Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban values his services in Supreme, may yet prove to be a gracious action on her part. It has saved the sun moment from a very delicate dilemma.

If Abul Khayyam is appointed chief justice, her legal brilliance may become dull to other brighter, depending on how she would use her sound reasoned wisdom and knowledge of the law. She would be put to awful note, as she would be torn between loyalty to her benefactors and fidelity to her profession.

If she succeeds Panganiban, she might help adjudicate the controversial people's initiative, which was opposed by the Court.—Ramon S. Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)

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Across the NATION

# 17 Pampanga mayors revolt, bolt Lakas

**RECORDUS**

*A first-year cadet is forced to drink water while undergoing physical training as part of a four-year course before being recognized in the Philippine Military Academy cadet corps at the PMA grounds in Baguio City. At least 211 cadets were subjected to physical and mental training by their superior officers.*

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—AT LEAST 17 OF 22 mayors in President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province defected to her Kabalikat ng Mamamayong Pilipino (Kampi) on Thursday, decimating the local Lakas-NUCD ranks.

They sought refuge in the President's party a week after the ruling party's provincial chief, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, and his son Gov Mark Lapid ditched all three proposals of the Pampanga Mayors League (PML) for the May 2007 elections.

Defiant they were known as by Susan Ilap, Albert Garcia, Kampi national treasurer and Central Luzon chief, 14 mayors present in the oathtaking were Lakas-Lapid-gin lampas-supilin their "betrayal of reform" and "loss of a strong leadership."

Garcia then formally accepted into the Kampi Mayors Joy Ingson of San Luis, Librado Rivera of Guagua, Rodrigo Cunsio of San Simon, Lucas Arroyo of Sto. Tomas, Francisco Guido of Sta. Ana, Edgardo Morse of Minalin, Arthur Salalila of Sta. Rita, Catalina Bagsalay of Sasmuan, Jerry Rivera of Candaba, Romeo Gaugco of Bacolor, Darwin Manalastas of Mexico, Timo Lacanilao of Apalit and Christian Gozlan of Magalang.

Eight of them were Lakas members. The rest were either opposition or independents but nonetheless allies of the Lapids.

In the press conference, Garcia reaffirmed the Kampi membership of Mayors Oscar Pineda of Lubao, Teddy Tumang of Mexico, Peter Perez of Mabalacat and Rampiel Gamboa of Porac. The four officials were absent at the time.

Garcia said the negotiations for their acceptance into the Kampi had been "happening for some time and filtered up only this week."

He said he has no information if this had the blessing of Ms Arroyo, Kampi's founding president.

"I was sent by our national chair, Congressman Louie Villafuerte to administer the oath," Garcia said.

Reyes, PML spokesperson, said they did not seek the blessing of Ms Arroyo and her son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Vice Gov Jennifer Cunsio, a Kampi member, came to support the breakaway group.

Absent in the rites were Bacolor Mayor Jonathan Lacson, Guagua Mayor Oscar Rodriguez of the City of San Fernando, Leonardo Flores of Macabebe and Luis Suyom of Arayat.

Dungca, PML vice president, announced also the creation of a local political party, the Lakas-Kampilangan. This, he added, will be affiliated with the Kampi, which thrust Ms Arroyo to the vice presidency in 1998.

"It will campaign only for candidates endorsed by the PML," Dungca said, reading from the league's official statement.

Dungca said their joining the Kampi and the creation of Lakas-Kampilangan should not be read as their way of revolting against the Lapids.

"Hindi naman iyon ibig sabihin nun ganoon ang way," Mayor said in reply to an Inquirer question. But later in the press briefing, he said the Lakas-Kampilangan would have "no conflict with national politics."

The alliance with the Lapids broke after the governor rejected the PML proposals to take Hondo as running mate, get third nominee mayors in the slate for board members and accept non-Lakas mayors into the party.

The governor did not reply to reporters's calls and text messages for comments. The senator left for the United States on Monday. Both have been pressuring Paul Tristan Lanot to bet for vice governor.

Bhoyz Puerto Galan, one of the original local Lakas leaders, said the governor had been "very unfair" to him by not taking him to the slate for board members.

## ROUNDUP

### 2 firefighters wounded

[illegible] — Two volunteer firefighters were injured by falling debris as they were battling the fire that hit the main building of the University of Mindanao late in the [illegible] on Wednesday. But Chief Insp. Dexamines Pachoncia said the two firefighters were already safe. Pachoncia said they were responding that the building's electrical circuits caused the fire.

*Edde C. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

### Winning photographer

ALBOR, Bohol's Pride, a professional Bohol Enduro, won the top two major prizes in the annual Bidal-Tabud Festival photo contest held in Tubigon City recently. The two grand prizes were his 3.5 tot and 35mm cassette, respectively, in the field of photography. Pride, a photo correspondent of Cebu Daily News, a major daily in Cebu City and a sister company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, received a cash prize of P5,000 and P3,000, respectively and certificates of recognition from the winning photos which features the famous "tarsiers" of the city under Bidal Festival-based category. Being that he said, judged from "almost [illegible] make good" and is not people realize "that disability is not a limitation to success."

### Village chief shot dead

SAMAR ORIENTAL, Basey Sur — A village chief was shot and killed by two motorcycle-riding men in the early Lantag here on Monday. Police said Robert Abaya, village chief of Canmagayan, was landed at the rear portion of a jeep transporting people when two men shot him. The suspects were armed with an M-16 rifle and a .45-cal. pistol, police said. Abaya's three companions in the jeep were unhurt but a bystander was hit in the head by a stray bullet.

*Lascia Adina Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

### Robbers strike at NFA

CAMP MEJIA, BAYAN, Batangas — Six unidentified armed men disarmed four on-duty security guards at the National Food Authority Batangas provincial office and took their personal belongings and several items from the office at about 9:15 p.m., Saturday, Supt. Eduardo Sampol, Batangas City police chief, identified the victims as Lakbayan Agency security guards Dominigo Balacanag, 40; Ronald Cochao, 31; Lenuel Pelaio, 28, and chief security officer Joseph Palao, 37. He said the suspects — armed with homemade rifles, .45-cal. pistols, shotguns and six pieces of hand grenades — disarmed the guards at gunpoint, tied them with packaging tape and locked them inside the electrical room and latrine/ room.

*Marlon Ambacan Lozaña, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### Carabao upgrade program

BANGALAN, Bataan del Sur — Farmers in this town would receive aid in upgrading their carabao stocks through artificial insemination, Councilor Benito Bonilla said. Bonilla said the Sangguniang Bayan has approved at least P200,000 this year for the program that would help farmers upgrade the breed of local carabaos. He said Mayor Peter Melchor Wolfes has entered into an agreement with the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato so the program could be already implemented. Under the program, the PCC would provide artificial insemination services to carabaos from without cost to the owners. "Dr. under the artificial insemination program, would be given as an incentive to carabao, not only for cultivating their lands, but also in transporting their products to the market," Bonilla said.

*Edde C. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

### Nueva Ecija homecoming

ALL GRADUATES of the Nueva Ecija High School Class 1956 are invited to attend the 1-day alumni homecoming on Nov. 21 and 26 at the NEHS grounds. The homecoming is the class' 40th. The activities would start on Nov. 26 exclusively for Class 1956, and the next day, there would be a program for all classes that are celebrating their homecoming. For more information, please contact Dr. Jesus C. Bautista (044) 9339483 in Manila, or Sra. Lenny Sta. Ana Cuartero (02) 5800339 in Caloocan City.

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# Mining engineer shortage seen growing problem

BACOLOD CITY — THE COUNTRY IS FACING A serious shortage of mining engineers and unless schools will produce more graduates, the mining industry will likely turn to foreign engineers for help, the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) said here on Wednesday.

Ivan, the Board of Mining Engineers is slashed as only nine licensed mining engineers took their oath this year before the Professional Regulation Commission.

Enzo Rodriguez, PMSEA president, said the country's mining industry has become upbeat due to the entry of foreign capital willing to invest in untapped exploration.

But the lack of mining engineers, geologists, mining surveyors and metallurgists would derail the resurgence of mining as the country's top dollar earner, he said.

Roger Castelo, Board of Mining chair, said there were 2,000 mining engineers licensed since 1955 but most of them have gone abroad when the industry was at its lowest from 1990 to 2000.

"Today, only 875 mining engineers are left and most of them are in their senior years," he said.

"Producing 8,000 mining engineers in the next five years will not even be enough to supply the needs of the industry," he said.

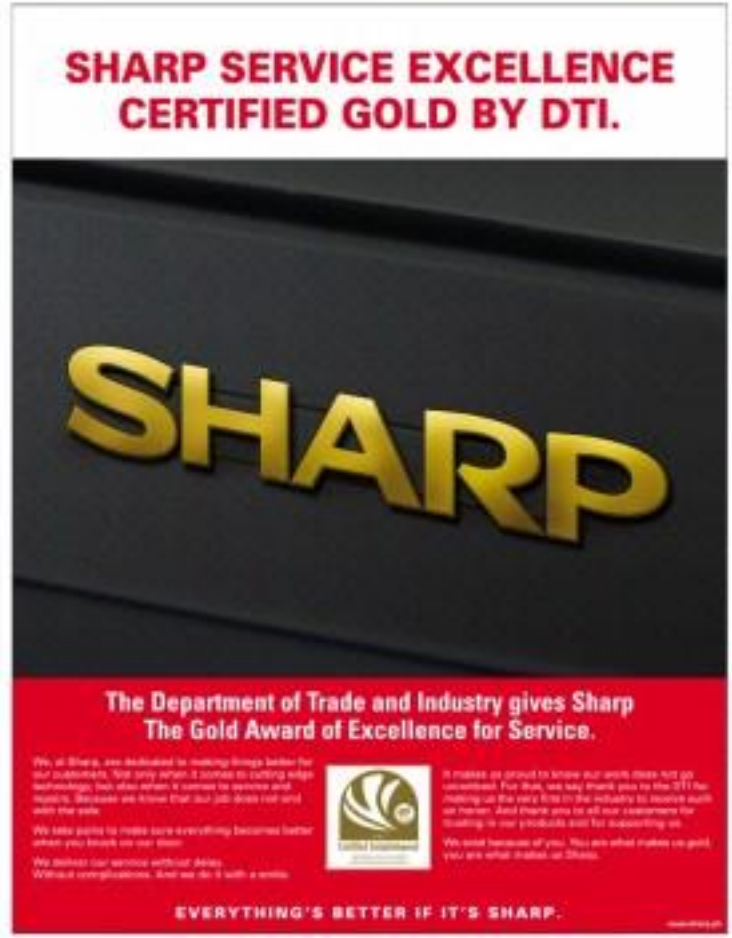
"The global recession in metal prices forced many mining companies in the country to close shop, resulting in the displacement of mining engineers, who were forced to work abroad or engage in jobs not related to their profession," Ramon Santiago, PMSEA director, said.

"We actually lost a generation of mining engineers and we need 10 years to create a new breed," he said.

Castelo said aside from the exodus of engineers abroad, the closure of mining engineering courses also contributed to the acute shortage of mining engineers.

"The profession became not as lucrative and glamorous as other professions," he said.

*Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



TREASURE
Enterprising young boys collect discarded cartons at local shops in Davao City to sell them to junk shops and earn money to help their families.

# Surigao Sur gets calamity forecasting gadget

SIARGAO, SURIGAO del Sur—A piece of equipment that could help authorities forecast typhoons, floods and possibly earthquakes, has arrived in the province on Wednesday.

Surigao del Sur is one of the country's provinces regularly battered by typhoons.

Recently, hundreds of people were displaced because of floods triggered by torrential rains. Three people were also killed during the floods.

The forecasting equipment has yet to be installed in Tagbina however, but officials said they were expecting it to be up soon.

Glenn Rabonza, chief of the National Disaster and Coordinating Council, said the province is one of the 27 provinces where forecasting equipment would be installed.

"Only 27 of the 80 provinces of the country were included in the program because these had been determined as severely calamity-prone areas," Rabonza said.

He said the equipment was purchased under the $4.5-million loan assistance provided by the USAID and the World Bank. —Rey Pesada, Inquirer Mindanao

# CHR to probe violence vs labor pickets

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—THE Commission on Human Rights (CHR) regional office on Monday began investigating the case filed by striking workers at the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ) against officials of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and Cavite police.

CHR investigator Felix Lumayag said an inquiry was conducted on allegations of the striking workers of Phils. Jean Garments Inc. and Chong Wei Fashion Inc., both Korean-owned garment factories in CEZ, of violent dispersal of their picket line by the police.

Labor unions Bandarat ng mga Manggagawa sa Phils. Jeans (KMJ) and Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Chong Wei Fashion (NKCW) said the workers in the two companies had been on strike since the last week of September due to the refusal of the management to enter into a collective bargaining agreement.

CHR identified the respondents as Peza Director General Lilia de Lima, Peza Industrial Relations Division chief Mary Jane Sunda, Peza police chief Jose Renante, and Chief Insp. Ayala Lito Bladelers, police chief of Rosario, Cavite.

## Swift probe

Lumayag said the CHR wanted the investigation to proceed as swiftly as possible.

The CHR, however, decided to terminate the mediation process as the investigation turned out to be a heated confrontation between both parties.

"We cannot continue with that scenario. Thus, we decided to terminate the hearing and postpone it to Nov. 27," Lumayag said.

He said the CHR asked the respondents to submit a counter-affidavit with attachment of evidence within 10 days from Monday.

Earlier, in a letter addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo, seven US-based companies expressed alarm over reports of violent attacks against the striking workers at the CEZ, the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC) said on Friday.

The companies urged the Philippine government to "take proactive measures to ensure the physical safety" of the workers and work for the protection of the rights of workers and labor rights promoters.

## American concern

The letter was signed by Jonathan Eagle Ourbikian, Gap Inc., Jones Apparel Group, Liz Claiborne Inc., PVH, Polo Ralph Lauren and Mid-Mart.

Those companies buy apparel products made from Philippine economic zones.

The companies asked for an impartial investigation of the killing of Bishop Alberto Ramento, chair of the WRC board of directors, and the shooting of Gerardo Crisóbal, former union president and member of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers.

The US companies' signatories are Guy F. Bradford, vice president, corporate responsibility and executive compliance officer, American Eagle Outfitters; Dan Fertile, senior vice president of social responsibility, Gap Inc.; Lorna Whitman, vice president, compliance and human rights, Jones Apparel Group; Daryl Rivers, vice president business ethics and compliance; Liz Claiborne; Rhonda Brandwein, vice president global human rights & social responsibility programs, Phillips-Van Heusen; David M. Dreisen, senior director, Global Human Rights Compliance, Polo Ralph Lauren; Najma Ahmadzadeh, director of compliance, Global Procurement, Wal-Mart.

The WRC is a nongovernment organization based in Antarctic, Cavite, which provides assistance to workers, labor unions and other organizations.

It is engaged in organizing labor workers inside the Cavite Export Processing Zone and other export processing zones in Luzon into labor unions to assert their rights. —Aldor-Catherine Gallaga, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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# 18 human smuggling victims held in Zambo

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AT LEAST 18 WOMEN from Maguindanao were held by Coast Guard authorities here on Sunday night on suspicion they were victims of illegal recruitment.

Lt. Commander Ray Echeverria, Coast Guard chief here, said a male suspected of acting as a conspirator—or the intermediary between the victims and the recruiter—was also taken in for questioning.

Echeverria said two marshals aboard the MV Catahan Princess, which sailed from Bulko to Maguindanao, had suspected that the women were illegally recruited.

So when the ship docked here on Sunday evening the sea marshals alerted the Coast Guard.

"They were supposed to go to Manila to meet their recruiter identified as Hadji Ali Imong," Echeverria said of the women, most of whom were from Datu Odin Sinsuat in Maguindanao.

He said when Coast Guard personnel demanded identification from the women they showed mostly photocopies of their passports.

He said the women told them their original passports were taken by the recruiter.

Francisco Ibarrola, city social welfare officer, said they await custody of the women while the identity of their recruiter was still being verified.

"We are still verifying if the agency they are claiming (recruiter from) is really legal," he said.

Echeverria said they noticed there were discrepancies in the documents of the women.

He cited as examples the case of Baisyar Kandil, 27, of Datan, North Cotabato and Mila Mamolbatao. Ador S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

**TOURIST DRAWER**

**Crocodiles rest in river pond as the "Crocs Land" section of the "Zimbi" zoo at Subic Bay Freeport, a former US naval base in Zambales. More than 200 such crocodiles, all bred in captivity, are freely roaming the fenced facility.**

# Gov seeks cop chief ouster over 'jueteng'

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—GOV. LUIS RAYMUND "Lray" Villafuerte is pushing for the immediate relief of Senior Supt. Romeo Maputo, provincial police director of Camarines Sur, for the latter's alleged continued failure to stop the operation of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game, in the province.

Villafuerte has also urged Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Calderon and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to appoint Senior Supt. Romeo Roy Tumbocgan as Maputo's replacement.

He sought Maputo's relief in separate letters addressed to the two officials dated Nov. 8 and Nov. 13.

The governor informed Puno and Calderon that he had chosen Tumbocgan as Maputo's replacement pursuant to National Police Commission Memorandum Circular No. 2005-002, which provides for the selection of the provincial director within 30 working days from receipt of the list of three nominees from the office of the Director of the Regional Police Office.

"I would like to stress the urgency and necessity of relieving police Supt. Romeo Maputo for his continued failure to curb jueteng which to this day proliferates in the municipalities of Bgy. Lupi, Pasacao, Libmanan, Camaligan, Calabanga, Tinambac, Lagonoy, Goa, San Jose, Baao, Nabua, Iriga, Del Gallego, Ibalo and Ocan," said Villafuerte in his letter to Calderon even as he appealed for Tumbocgan's appointment.

The governor has made a similar appeal in his letter to Puno.

Last Oct. 30, three days after receiving the list of three nominees, Villafuerte had officially informed Chief Supt. Victor Deoc, police regional office 5 director, and Director Nicolas Nolasco, head of PNP Personnel and Records Management, of his preference for Tumbocgan's appointment as the new provincial police director of Camarines Sur.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Villafuerte pointed out that he had repeatedly told Maputo to go after jueteng operators in the province but the latter had apparently ignored his directive. "I have identified to him (Maputo) the areas where jueteng is rampant but he obviously has not lifted a finger to stamp out this illegal activity that's why I want him out."

While Maputo acknowledged that jueteng in various parts of Camarines Sur had resumed, he could not offer an explanation why the police in the province failed to stop it, even as he insisted that they had continuously been conducting anti-illegal gambling operations.

"I find that hard to believe. He [Maputo] knows where jueteng is rampant because we were even providing him information," said Villafuerte, branding Maputo's explanation as a "face-saver." Jason Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

# Corn pests ruin farms in Bicol

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—CORN PLANT HOPPERS (Dicranotropis purpurea), a pest that destroyed farms in Mindanao, are now ravaging hundreds of hectares of cornfields in six towns and cities of Albay and Camarines Sur, according to the Department of Agriculture here.

Dr. Evangeline de la Trinidad, chief of DA's Regional Crop Protection Center, said in a report that this new plant hopper, known locally as "weya-weya," had so far destroyed 200 ha of corn farms in Camarines Sur and 20 ha in Albay. Jason Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

DAILY LIFE
A woman's at her usual spot along a highway in Cotabato City, selling dried mudfish for a living.

# Petron, oil tanker owner seek dismissal of charges

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—OFFICIALS OF PETRON Corp. and the owner of the sunken tanker Solar 1 have asked the Iloilo provincial prosecutor's office to junk the criminal complaint filed against them in relation to the massive oil spill that hit the island.

Carlito Tan, Petron health safety and environment officer and compliance spokesperson, said the criminal charges lacked "factual and legal basis."

Tan, who filed the counter-affidavit dated Oct. 23 on behalf of other respondents Petron president Khalid Al-Buhliqah, Nicasio Alcantara Ishaac and chief executive officer and finance manager Jose Ibon Gonzalez for operations) said the grant oil firm had nothing to do with the operation and sailing of the Solar 1.

Tan's counter-affidavit, which was received on June 30 by the provincial prosecutor's office and released yesterday, said Petron still could not be responsible for the sinking of the tanker because the incident "resulted from accidental causes or causes which are beyond the control of Petron or the Respondents."

The respondents were charged with violating Republic Act No. 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004), Republic Act No. 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) and Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

The violations carry a punishment of six to 12 years' imprisonment or a fine of P1,000 to P500,000 or both.

Also named respondents were Clemente Camcio, president of the Southline Maritime Development Corp. (SMDC), which owns the tanker that sank 13.3 nautical miles off Guimaras on Aug. 11.

The complaint was filed on Sept. 12 by Mayor Dionisio Gonzaga of Nueva Valencia town on behalf of his constituents who were affected by the oil spill. Nueva Valencia is the hardest hit by the oil spill among the five municipalities of Guimaras.

In his complaint, Gonzaga said the oil spill caused massive destruction and damage on the province's rich marine resources and severely affected their tourism industry and economy. He also pointed out that losses coming from the oil sludge caused affluents among the residents and polluted the conservation.

Gonzaga also accused the respondents of being responsible for the unauthorized dumping of contaminated debris in San Antonio village and the alleged spraying of unauthorized chemicals along the shoreline of Barangay Guiwanon.

But Tan said in his affidavit that the tanker was seaworthy when Petron contracted it to transport Sunkar fuel to Zamboanga City.

He also concluded that the Aug. 22 report of the Department of Health and the University of the Philippines National Poison Management and Control Center that the level of hydrogen sulfide, a toxic substance, was significantly higher than tolerable levels in the town hit villages of Cabalagnan and Lapaz.

## S.O.S. SORSOGON

Thank you! Thank you! to the many good people who sent us a total of P2 million 90 thousand and 415 pesos and 25 centavos P2,090,415.25 grand total

Of this amount we gave you last week a breakdown of the P1,094,912.43 spent for the immediate needs of 23 barangays for their housing needs. Not enough really but we have to keep the other half of the money for permanent structures we hope to build with the help of Gawad Kalinga. The amount set aside for this is P981,320.80. You will hear more about this from Father Gerard Devesa in some future report.

Meanwhile, let us mention the names of those almost-last-comers not mentioned yet in our reports: Ilocanos family P10,000; Butch Banos, P1,000; C.A. P10,000.

*One anonymous P500,000 and two anonymous P5,000. Donations in kind (clothes, shoes, books plus P5,000 Rural Bank of Bulusan): Joi Lapitan, P1,000 some from: Pinoy Kalbasla, Lucy Linda Lee's family; Nobi Uematsu; Nymphet Tabe, Cherry Co; Andra Amarin; Grace Oy; Lydia Ibarra; Mel Cadiscaras, Dr. Rosario Mayor Flores; Glenda Ignacio, Drs. Jose & Lourdes Lucero, Mimer Tan; Lourdes Estella Beltrong; Lydia S. Pagsisi, Outstanding was 50 boxes of books signed anonymous 50 boxes, Mr. Ong and Pedro Dimas.*

Margie Moran reports that the Habitat for Humanities will work with the donor S.C. Johnson and Sons on some schools together with DBA Express Foundation.

*Maraming Salamat to all from S.O.S. SORSOGON*

PS. Thanks in advance to QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte who has pledged a housing donation.

# Bungling cops pick on wrong mayor

LOZANO CITY—MAYOR ALEXEUS Maldaza of Kabuvalan, Magindanao was in his hotel room in Davao City on Wednesday preparing for his flight to Manila when policemen suddenly barged in.

Maldaza, who was leaving for Manila to attend to an election-law-related trial, said he was surprised when the policemen asked him about Mayor Talib Mo of Patang town.

He was the Magindanao mayor, who's how City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, named as one of the alleged drug lords smuggling shabu into the city.

Maldaza told the Inquirer by phone he told the six policemen that he was not Mayor Mo.

"Sir, I am here. I am Mayor Maldaza," he recounted telling the policemen.

By this time, the policemen already started searching his room, he said.

Maldaza said he was flashed an identification card as the police would believe he is the mayor of Kabuvalan town, which is more than 50 km from Patang but the policemen continued searching the hotel room.

"I also allowed myself to be searched," he said.

When the policemen found nothing, Maldaza said they were down the stairs.

"I followed them and saw them looking at the motorbikes, which I used in getting to Davao," he said.

He said he told the policemen the ambulance belongs to the municipality of Kabuvalan.

He said to satisfy the raiders, he even asked them to search the vehicle for any contraband.

"Go ahead check everything including the tires. You can even dismantle the engine to make sure that no shabu or any prohibited drug is concealed there," Maldaza recalled what he told the policemen.

Later, Maldaza said the policemen apologized and told him they got a tip that he was Mayor Mo.

"The raiders obtained wrong information," he said.

Maldaza said the incident caused him embarrassment but said he was not blaming the policemen.

But he said policemen should be more circumspect the next time and that they should make sure their information was accurate before staging a similar raid. Charlie C. Arturo, Inquirer Mindanao

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# All-Day, Every Way!

# From QC jail, Atong ...

Front page A1

Atong was brought to the Special Intensive Care Area (Sica) of the Metro Manila District Jail (MMDJ) in Bicutan past 1 p.m. today after the Sandiganbayan Special Division committed him to the Quezon City jail.

He now fellow inmates are the 131 Abu Sayyaf Group death convicts, some bombing suspects and a few Chinese drug lords.

But Atong will not be mingling with the suspected terrorists anytime soon—at least for a month—as he will be rostered to Cell 1 of the Reception and Diagnostic Center, according to Supt. Serafin Barroso Jr., regional director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

"We will need to assess it's a few weeks his condition here and later we will assign him to a permanent cell," Barroso said at a press conference.

A cell and a steel gate separate Atong's new 18-square-meter detention cell, which he alone occupies, is in the most incredible space in the entire three-story jail facility that the BJMP can assign to its newest inmate, according to Barroso.

## Discretion

Interior Undersecretary Ronaldo Puno said a jail warden could transfer a detainee to another holding facility other than that mandated by a court if there was a threat to his or her life.

"The warden has discretion to do that if there is a threat," Puno told the Inquirer.

Puno made the remark after the BJMP decided to move Atong to the SMMJ in Bicutan, Taguig.

Supt. Ignacio Bunoi, the Quezon City jail warden, filed the motion to move Atong to the MMDJ on Wednesday afternoon after the Sandiganbayan decided to commit Atong to the city jail instead of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) jail in Manila.

Atong stayed at the NBI jail after he was extradited from the United States on Nov. 16. He wanted to be detained at the NBI jail.

A check with the Sandiganbayan showed that instead of acting on the urgent motion filed by the Quezon City jail warden for Atong's transfer, the Special Division ordered the prosecution to file Estrada plunder case re-scheduled on the motion.

## Even without court order

But even without a court order, the BJMP decided to transfer Atong from the congested Quezon City jail to the Sica building because he is a "high-profile" case and because of threats to his life.

Barroso said Atong could be housed inside the Quezon City jail.

He said the BJMP need not wait for a court order under the Revised Rules of Court. He, however, clarified that Atong would not be accorded "VIP treatment."

Barroso said he saw no immediate threat to the life of Atong, whom Estrada had appointed a "consultant" on state-sponsored gambling, because the jail facility was heavily guarded.

After Estrada's ouster in January 2001, Atong was charged as one of his cronies/aides in running a payola racket from the illegal numbers game "jueteng" and in laundering for Estrada P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

Atong fled to the United States in 2000, but was arrested in Nevada after the Philippines sought his extradition.

Estrada, who has been in detention since 2001 while his case was being heard, is accused of amassing a personal fortune of up to P4 billion. Atong will be cited because he was not in the country when the case against Estrada was heard.

## TV set, basketball court

Atong's cell is well-ventilated and has a toilet and a bunk bed, according to the MMDJ warden, Supt. Edgar Bolcio. He allowed Atong to bring in his own folding bed, mattress and a television set.

"I lent him my electric fan because he did not bring his own today," Bolcio told the Inquirer. Atong asked the jail official if he could bring in his laptop but Bolcio turned down the request.

The jail facility has a basketball court and recreation area.

## Remains family's concerns

The family of Edgar Bermale had expressed concern over the safety of Atong while he was detained at the Quezon City jail, an interview watchdog group said yesterday.

"The search for the truth about Edgar Bermale's murder might be jeopardized with his possible killing in the jail," said Dante Jimenez, chair of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

Bermale was a security head at Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. who disappeared in the late 1990s supposedly for his alleged role in making public a closed-circuit video showing Estrada and Atong gambling in a Pagcor casino when Estrada was vice president.

Jimenez said the Bermale family had already relocated to the United States.

The VACC chair said the Bermale sons also disappointed over how the government had handled the disappearance of Edgar, who had allegedly given the videotape to Bienvenido Marcelo after three months the exposé before the 1998 presidential election. Estrada was a presidential candidate in 1998.

"They're not concerned where he would be detained. They just want to be certain that he would be around to tell the story of what happened to Edgar after he was abducted years ago," Jimenez said in an interview.

STILL BEHIND BARS despite a change of scenery for Atong Ang, who was transferred on Thursday for security reasons from the Quezon City jail to the Metro Manila District Jail at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig. STORY HERE

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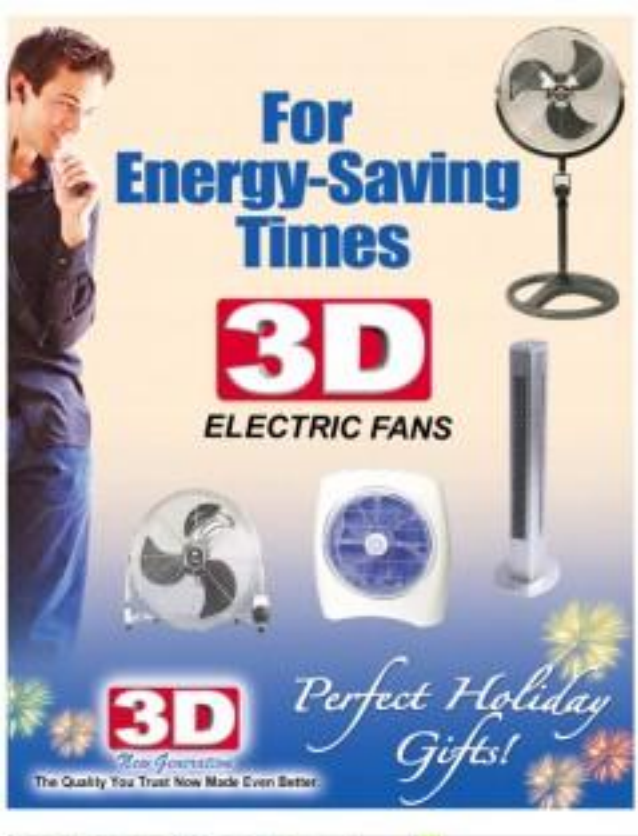




NEWS

# Tsunami alert triggers panic

THOUSANDS OF COASTAL RESIDENTS in the northeastern part of the country, as well as Manila, fled to higher ground due to rumors and telecommunication following a tsunami alert after such a magnitude earthquake struck near Japan late Wednesday, officials said yesterday.

The people reported receiving text messages warning them to flee their homes because of a tsunami.

"At about 1 a.m. [Thursday] they all fled to the hills. We heard that a 12-meter wall of water was going to hit us," one resident, Lina Lopez, of Aloslog, Cagayan, told dzRH radio.

Shortly after the quake struck 1,700 km northeast of Tokyo in the north Pacific, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) issued a tsunami warning for the country's northern and eastern coasts.

## No need to flee

But the warning only advised people to watch for changes in sea conditions, Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said. All alerts were canceled early Thursday.

"There was no order to evacuate," Solidum said. "We need to improve the warning in our communication. That's why we need to have a more reliable local communication."

In Aurora, hundreds of families in at least three towns had to flee by a recent typhoon fled to higher ground.

Coastal residents in Cagayan, Isabela and Quirino also evacuated, official communities.

In Manila, residents of a slum area near Manila Bay left their homes after hearing about the tsunami warning on radio and television. They returned early Thursday, officials said.

Wednesday evening's earthquake brought only 60-centimeter waves to the shores of Japan's southernmost island of Hokkaido. No casualties or damage were reported.

## Higher ground

Philippine disaster officials had raised no alert level 2, meaning coastal dwellers should be watchful—into on Wednesday after the quake but canceled the advisory shortly after midnight when no large waves occurred.

Hundreds of residents remained on higher ground, however, afraid to go home.

"We need a better advisory system," Solidum told a local radio station. "We need a disaster mayor disseminating information. We don't want people in panic."

But one woman told the radio station that people were still fleeing.

"Our neighbors are still packing and ready to go to the nearby hills. There are only two families left here and we're preparing to leave, too," she said from an undisclosed location.

The residents apparently feared a repeat of the devastating December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami—Japanese for "harbor wave"—that killed or left missing up to 232,000 people in Thailand and other countries. The Philippines was not affected by that calamity. AP, Reuters

# METRO

Editor Ester G. Diposupil

BRILLANTE: Trouble stems too

# Binay files ₱10-M libel suit (again) vs ex-vice mayor

## Sandigan poised to cite Brillante for contempt

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Norman Bordadora

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY YESTERDAY filed a P10-million libel suit against a former city official who had accused him of graft.

In a complaint lodged in the Makati City Prosecutor's Office, Binay cited as ground for his suit an allegation made by former Makati Vice Mayor Roberto Brillante in a press statement on Nov. 3 that the mayor has P1.38 million on "lobby money."

The statement also claimed Binay paid three Sandiganbayan justices P30 million for his reinstatement, or P10 million for each to junk the graft case the Ombudsman filed against him based on Brillante's complaint.

The Sandiganbayan dismissed Brillante's complaint against Binay for lack of probable cause.

Apart from Binay's libel suit, Brillante was also rebuked by justices of the Sandiganbayan Third Division for the same allegations.

The division has started contempt proceedings against Brillante.

Binay said the "damage to my name, reputation, integrity as [mayor or as a public officer and as a private citizen is absolute and irrevocable, for which Brillante should be made criminally liable . . . and civilly liable for moral and exemplary damages."

Brillante was found guilty a few months ago of libel against the mayor for remarks he made on his radio program over dwBC on Sept. 29, 1995.

The latest case involved allegations that Binay, his wife Elenita, several city officials and private individuals made anomalous purchases involving P221-million worth of office furniture for the new City Hall from 1999 to 2001.

Brillante filed a separate administrative case against Binay alleging the mayor, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and 16 city councilors maintained ghost employees on the City Hall payroll.

In absolving Brillante, Third Division chair Justice Godofredo Legaspi said the former Makati official "maligned the integrity and probity of the justices but the entire institution itself."

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## Fight for BF gates moves to appeals court

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE UNITED BF HOMES ASSOCIATION INC. (UBFHAI) is not giving up the fight for its gates.

On Tuesday, through a motion for reconsideration, it asked the Court of Appeals to decide on the validity of City Ordinance 00-15 that opened H. Grande, Aguirre and Elizalde Streets inside the subdivision, rather than remand the case to the lower court where it was first heard.

"The court should decide on the case so we can move on to the Supreme Court," Cebu Reyes, UBFHAI president, told the business over the phone.

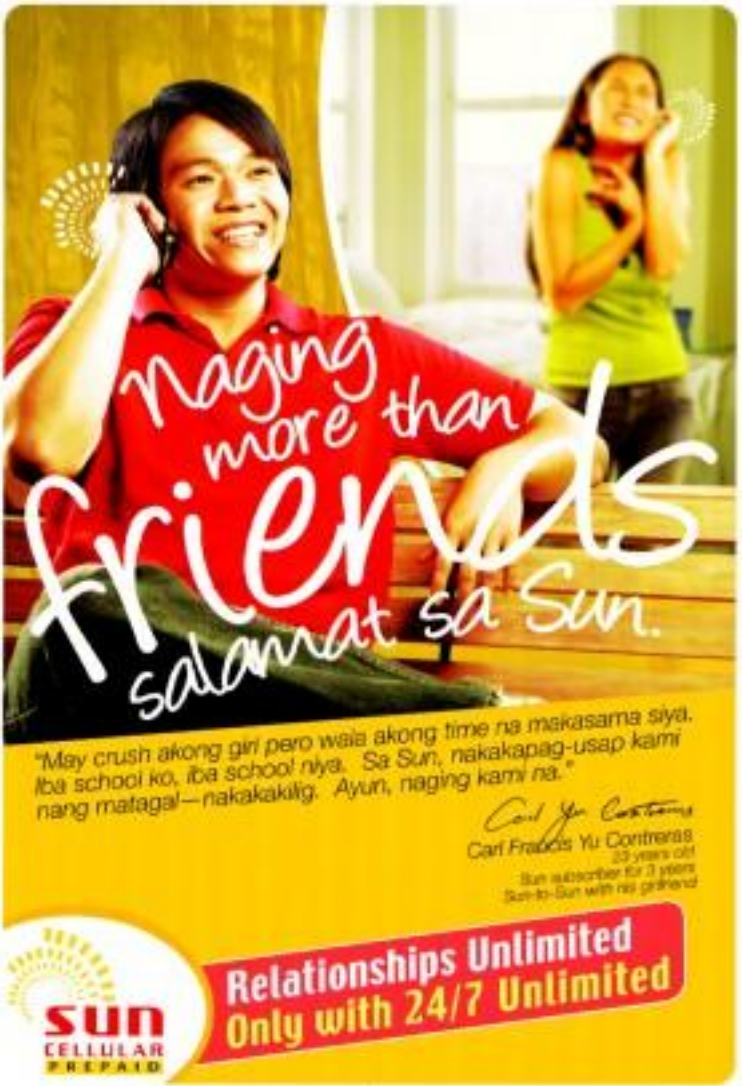
The Parañaque City government took control of the main gates over the weekend after the Court of Appeals issued by Judge Alberto Lerma of the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court Branch 256. The injunction suspended implementation of the ordinance.

Meanwhile, Mayor Florencio Bernabe promised 20,000 homeowners that control of the subdivision's main gates would be transferred to them "at the proper time."

"We are here to protect you and the safety of your homes. But we can only do that with your full cooperation," the mayor said. He said the takeover was meant to stop the contributions the UBFHAI had allegedly collected for years from legitimate homeowners, service providers, business establishments and motorists.

The mayor expressed dismay over allegations that the UBFHAI dismantled traffic lights and lampposts installed by the city government on Aguirre Avenue and Elizalde Street.

He said removing the installations only showed the "distorted sense of public service and indifference to the welfare of homeowners of some UBFHAI officials."



# Judge in Dennis Roldan trial withdraws from case

YES, SHE CAN! PO2 Elvie Maddela shows colleagues how to make an arrest, with PO1 Eddy Cabling posing as a suspect, during drills held by the police at their annual training program yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE JUDGE HANDLING THE KIDnapping case involving actor and lawyer Dennis Roldan withdrew from the case, but only after dismissing a prosecution motion questioning her earlier decision to grant bail to Roldan, the principal suspect in the incident.

The prosecution has already received copies of the court resolutions read through the mail, said Roger Yu, father of Roldan's alleged victim.

In her decision to inhibit herself, Pasig City Regional Trial Court branch 261 Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio said that while her previous decision to grant bail to Roldan was based solely on evidence presented, she would withdraw voluntarily from the case to preserve the integrity of the court and avoid suspicion, another source told the Inquirer.

Before inhibiting herself from the case, Carpio also denied the prosecution's motion asking her to reconsider her decision to grant Roldan bail, saying the previous decision was based on the merits of the case.

Roldan is accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 2-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy in February 2005. His alleged girlfriend Jeanette Wang, reportedly one of those who also masterminded the operation, remains at large.

Roldan immediately applied for bail as soon as the charges against him and seven others were filed before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court in March 2005.

The prosecution presented at least 10 witnesses during the bail hearings, which went on for almost a year, including policemen who testified they saw Roldan in the safe houses where the boy was brought, couple's trained stenographer Alberto Pagdanganan who said he accepted direct orders from Roldan, as well as the boy's mother who claimed she had negotiated with Roldan for her son's release.

The defense presented two witnesses—two of the accused—to support Roldan's bail application. Ned San Andres and Ramon Dicopulo said they never saw Roldan or heard his name mentioned during the almost two weeks the kidnap victim was with them.

Carpio allowed Roldan to post bail in July. Days later, Roldan's lawyers Sigrid Fortun and Joel Cancilla withdrew from the case.

Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense but in her decision, Carpio cited "weak" evidence against Roldan to be in the trial.

"The court believes that, at this stage, the aggregate of evidence so far presented by the prosecution is not strong to prove the complicity of Mitchell Tomakan and Dennis Roldan, as well as the other offenses," Carpio said in her decision, saying that witness testimonies were not collaborated by documents and testimonies of experts.

The prosecution questioned the decision and filed not only a motion for partial reconsideration but also a motion asking Carpio to inhibit herself, saying it had lost trust in the court's impartiality. Earlier, both the prosecution and the defense hailed Carpio's "expertise" handling of the case.

## METROBRIEFS

### Stalls demolished

CLEARING crews of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday demolished illegal stalls encroaching the sidewalk of a major commuter area in Makati City, the agency announced yesterday. The MMDA Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group (SCOG) cleared 20 makeshift stalls on both sides of Ortigas Extension, just a short walk away from the northbound side of the Metro Rail Transit's Magallanes station on Taft Ave. MMDA Public Affairs Service chief Corazon Jimenez said the three-hour operation affected stalls selling shoes, pirated videos and sandwiches, grocery items and food. Tarra F. Quismundo

### Antique sale

THE MAKATI Arts and Antiques Center Inc. (Maaci) will hold an exclusive sale this 11-18 at Philtrade, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Some 30 antique dealers are participating in the sale. Most sells all kinds of antiques—furniture, porcelain, ivory, artwork, religious items, jewelry, etc. Shops are open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

## Watchdog group for Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tarra F. Quismundo

FORMER MAKATI CITY COUNcilor Oscar Bay launched yesterday the "Save Makati Movement" to help stop graft and corruption and push the city to "even greater" socioeconomic progress.

The coalition of nongovernment organizations, which Bay said had an initial membership of 10,000, would reportedly keep an eye on the local bureaucracy to prevent graft and corruption and help prosecute erring public officials.

The new movement would be the city's chief consensus, he said in a press conference yesterday in Pasay City.

In its first act, the former councilor filed Wednesday with the Office of the Ombudsman, Office of the President and the Department of Interior and Local Government new graft charges against Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and other city officials he allegedly hiring ghost employees.

"This is just the start. We have information on many other cases that we shall pursue at the proper time in the proper forum," Bay said.

The coalition would reportedly also pursue the P425 million plunder case against Binay for alleged anomalous purchase of equipment for the Ospital ng Makati, and the P220 million case against Binay and his wife Elenita for reportedly overpriced furniture for the new City Hall.

## PNP chief asked to intervene in probe

By Nancy Carvajal

THE SISTER OF A SUSPECT IN A robbery-murder case which shot under questionable circumstances inside the Caloocan City jail has asked the chief of the Philippine National Police to intervene in the investigation.

She also requested for a penal-bed investigation by another agency of the death of Celerino Galarce, father of the star witness in the robbery-murder case, and the grenade explosion during his wake.

Cecilia Magnayon, a lawyer and sister of Efraim Magnayon, a suspect in the robbery-murder case involving a PNP 9 employee, appealed to PNP Chief Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon to look deeper into Galarce's death and the grenade explosion that killed two people and injured 23 others.

Magnayon asked Calderon to assign another unit or get the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct the investigation.

She denied that her family was involved in the death of Galarce or Charles Galarce and the grenade-throwing incident.

Magnayon said they have already come to terms with the death of her brother, and her family will not cry to avenge his late brother.

The younger Galarce also implicated Insp. Bryan Limbo and PO3 Antonio de Guzman in the death of the SPO 4 Ralph Galarce. The policemen were allegedly also involved in a series of robbery cases in Bagong Silang.

Magnayon said she feared for their lives because the families of the victims in the cop-killers were out to believe that her family had something to do with the grenade throwing.

The Caloocan City police on Tuesday filed multiple murder charges against Louie Magnayon, Michael Bautista, Ronnie de la Cruz, Alberto Medrano and Jessie Javier in connection with the explosion.

Meanwhile, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil told reporters that he made a suggestion to acting Southern Police District director Supt. Rufino Ordiz to ask the Caloocan City jail warden to confiscate the cell phones of the two police officers implicated in the Galarce case.

Bataoil, the Southern Police district director at the time of Roldo's murder, was instrumental in the filing of murder charges against the police officers. "I suggested that the cell phones of the two police officers be confiscated so they could still control the victim and would be able to give instructions to their cohorts," Bataoil said.

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# SLTC readies extra lanes for Alabang Viaduct

By Rica T. Dichoso

SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY CORP. (SLTC), proponent of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) Rehabilitation and Upgrading project, has assured the public that four lanes of the expressway will remain open at the ground level of the Alabang Viaduct while its founda tions are being strengthened as part of a rehabilitation program.

An extra lane is being built on either side of the viaduct to ensure traffic flow while excavation and construction is being done on the column footings, a consultant for SLTC told the bayanan in an interview.

### Open to all vehicles

The Alabang Viaduct bridge itself will remain open to all vehicles except those weighing 20 tons and above, and all lanes at the ground level will be open, the source added.

The SLTC has started reinforcing six bridge foundations at the south end of the Viaduct bridge, near the Filinvest exit.

Repairs on the Viaduct involve Toll Road 1 (TR1) of the SLEx rehab project.

### Structurally weak

The 1.2-kilometer long Alabang Viaduct, which was built in 1976, has become structurally weak over time and may not withstand a high-intensity earthquake, according to experts.

Part of the rehabilitation efforts involves the strengthening of the columns and footings, the replacement of all slabs and girders and the replacement and widening of the bridge deck from the existing six lanes to eight lanes.

### Responsibility

The SLTC is responsible for traffic management within the construction area, in coordination with the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC).

### Day to day

The agency is in charge of the day-to-day operations throughout SLEx network.

The SLTC staffs navigation plan provides that no part of the expressway will completely be closed to traffic during construction.

To further ensure normal traffic flow, the PNCC is fielding traffic and security patrols to assist in mobilization of heavy equipment to the site.

### Specific times

Such activities will be done only between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The rehabilitation and upgrading of the South Luzon Expressway is one of the government's priority projects for Luzon.

The project is being undertaken by the SLTC, a joint venture of PNCC and MTD Manila Expressways Inc., a unit of the Malaysian infrastructure giant and international tollway operator MTD Capital Bhd.

### Extension

Once completed, the new 20-km SLEx will total 36 km from the Alabang viaduct to Sto. Tomas, Batangas province.

It will link with the TPLEX Expressway which leads to the Batangas International Port.

### Crucial factor

Economic planners feature the utilization of the port as a crucial factor in reducing the cost of passenger and freight movements from other regions of the country as it will greatly shorten transport time and cost.

# Red Cross exec files libel raps vs colleagues

By Ol' Yap

THE FIGHT BETWEEN TWO WARRING FACtions in the Quezon City chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross has been brought to the court room.

Red Cross Quezon City chair and former congressman Dante Liban yesterday filed multi-million peso libel and perjury charges against chapter administrator Annie Dominguez Torres and members of the PNRC's executive committee.

In three separate complaints filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Liban accused Torres and company of malfeasance and perjuring themselves when they charged him with stealing more than P11 million from the organization.

Liban bought P30 million in mostly damages, and an additional P1 million in lawyer's fees, in each of the complaints he filed with fellow complainants Jennifer Espiritu, Reynaldo Bernardo and Anijun Sudario, all of PNRC-QC.

The complainants said Torres and company lied when the latter charged Liban with estafa, theft, and estafa for illegally withdrawing P11 million from the organization's bank account and cutting away P500,000 in cash donations.

The cases stemmed from a longstanding dispute between PNRC and its Quezon City chapter. Both are fighting for control over the chapter funds, with the mother organization refusing to acknowledge the current board of directors.

In her original complaints, Torres alleged that Liban was misrepresenting himself as the chair of the PNRC-QC, pointing out that the PNRC national charter recognizes only the signatures of members of the QC chapter's interim board. Liban had been expelled from the PNRC on Aug. 31, although he remained an officer of its Quezon City chapter.

Torres claimed that the elections that elected Liban and other officers to the PNRC-QC board of governors on June 29 had been conducted without the national chapter's authorization. The PNRC has declared the election null and void since the respondents allegedly refused to comply with the organization's bylaws.

But a Quezon City judge recently declared the Liban-chaired board as the de facto board authorized to handle the chapter funds, according to the former lawmaker. Liban has maintained that the "PNRC-QC chapter's money is the chapter's money and not the PNRC's (its mother organization)."

On the charge that he illegally withdrew money from the PNRC account, Liban said he only ordered the transfer of the chapter funds from its original bank account to a new account for the PNRC-QC chapter.

# Qualification issues could hound 2 bets

By Jerome Aning

TWO OF NINE LISTED CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR could face questions on their qualifications to run for office, election lawyer Nicholas Matalino said yesterday.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson should prove he was a resident of the city of Manila for at least a year prior to the May 14, 2007 elections, as required by law, Matalino said. Lacson should have also been a resident of Manila for at least six months before he could have registered as a voter in the city. "I presume that when he declared his candidacy, he is, indeed, a Manila resident," Matalino said in a forum.

The lawyer also said questions about the qualifications of former Manila sixth district Rep. Mark Jimenez could be raised by his opponents should the former decide to run in elections somewhere in the city.

"His conviction in the United States for election offense is not a ground for disqualification, but his ouster from the House of Representatives (of the Philippines) in 2000 might be," he said.

In March 2003, the House electoral tribunal reinstated Jimenez, who was in an representative in 2001, for vote-buying and lack of a one-year residency in the city.

The decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court a year later, by which time Jimenez was already serving a two-year prison term in the United States for violating illegal contributions to the US Democratic Party.

Under Philippine election laws, Macalintal said, those found guilty of certain election offenses may be perpetually disqualified from holding any public office or even be deprived of the right of suffrage.

Jimenez, who is engaged in various philanthropic activities, has yet to confirm if he would run in the election.


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# 'Graft-buster' Thai junta draws flak over perks

BANGKOK—SHARE TWO MONTHS after the September coup, Thailand's ruling junta, which vowed to crack down on corruption, finds itself in hot water over outrageous salary hikes and top jobs at major state firms.

The military-installed cabinet last week approved extra monthly payments of up to 120,000 baht ($3,300) to top coup leaders including General Sonthi Boonyaratglin.

The allowances came on top of their regular monthly salaries and the move angered almost doubled (nearly) monthly paycheck.

"What on earth were the coup leaders thinking?" Sirisidthi Tapsiri, an editor of the Thai English-language daily The Nation, wrote following the approval, calling it "egg in the face" for coup supporters.

Michael Nelson, a Bangkok-based expert on Thai politics, said it was a politically wrong move by the coup leaders, who seized power with a vow to root out corruption and conflicts of interest.

"With their high sense of morality, transparency and sacrifice, they (should) bet the last people to receive benefits," he said.

The junta, which calls itself the Council for National Security (CNS), also drew criticism for placing generals on the boards of the kingdom's top state-run companies, including flag carrier Thai Airways International.

The second most powerful man after Sonthi, Air Chief Marshal Chalit Pukbhasuk, was appointed by Thai Airways' board of directors Tuesday as the new chair.

Surakiat Sathirathai, a political science professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, said the move raised questions over conflicts of interest.

"It does not look good politically for the CNS to send military people to public enterprises. It raises doubts over the role of the CNS," Pradana said.

"The objective for the CNS is not to win favors and hands but to crack down on corruption," he said.

Former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in the bloodless coup on Sept. 19, was accused of alleged corruption and abuse of power.

But Sonthi has said the junta's investigators are struggling to come up with charges that will stick on Thaksin. So far, the only moves against him or his family have been relatively small orders for more rebates to pay back taxes.

Meanwhile the generals have been filling the boards of top companies, including the Telephone Organization of Thailand, CAT Telecom Public Company Limited and the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority.

Former premier Chavalit Yongchaiyudh also joined the growing chorus of criticism over the junta's politics, warning it should not neglect "the prevailing public sentiment," according to The nation.

Political analyst Pavinee said public opinion in the junta could quickly diminish if the military continued to make political and economic decisions without explaining them to the public.

Public support for Thailand's post-coup regime, headed by army-backed Prime Minister General Chaisawat, fell to 33 percent in November from 86 percent in December, according to a nationwide poll released Sunday. AFP

## Happy folks may suffer fewer colds

NEW YORK—STAYING POSITIVE through the cold season could be your best defense against getting sick, new study findings suggest.

In an experiment that exposed healthy volunteers to a cold or flu virus, researchers found that people with a generally sunny disposition were less likely to fall ill.

The findings, published in the journal Psychosomatic Medicine, build on evidence that a "positive emotional style" can help stave off the common cold and other illnesses.

Researchers believe the reason may be that vigorous, or at least moderate, exercise boosting immune function—and subjective—as in happy people being less troubled by a recently discussed many same.

"People with agreeable emotional style may have different immune responses to the virus," explained lead study author Dr. Sheldon Cohen of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. "And when they do get a cold, they may interpret their illness as being less severe." Cohen and his colleagues had based on a previous study that found people's personal less susceptible to catching a cold, but some questions remained as to whether the emotional trait itself had the effect.

For the new study, the researchers had 193 healthy adults complete questionnaires about personality traits, self-perceived health and emotional "style." Readers overseas for complete medical treatment to answer to resulting medical exam at home.

Through Ireland was not particularly keen on going abroad for his urgently needed triple bypass, he said it was a choice between that or going bankrupt.

"I just couldn't afford to have it done here for the USA," he said. "And now that it's over and done with, I would do it again without reservation." Helping accelerate this outsourcing trend are US corporations and insurance companies that are offering employees incentives to undergo invasive surgeries in first-class medical facilities in India, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia at third-world prices.

"This is like only magic bullet

WONDER OF THE WORLD CANDIDATE

Tourists visit the 2,300-year-old Pia Bronze Temple on the Acropolis hill, in Athens, in this Sept. 28 photo. The Acropolis is among the 21 candidates for the new seven wonders of the world. The seven winners will be announced July 7, 2007 in Lisbon. AP

## Pakistan tests nuke-capable missile

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PAKISTAN ON Thursday successfully test-fired a new version of its Ghauri-2 nuclear-capable missile, the military said, in a show of this Islamic nation's growing military capability.

The medium-range missile, which can hit targets at a distance of 1,300 km (800 miles), was launched to mark the end of military exercises being held at an undisclosed location.

Although the country frequently tests different versions of its missiles, the announcement comes a day after longtime nuclear rivals Pakistan and India conducted a crucial round of peace talks in New Delhi aimed at resolving their differences, including the thorny issue of their territorial dispute over Kashmir.

At their two-day talks, the two nations also agreed to set up joint mechanisms to combat terrorism, and to set safeguards to prevent an accidental nuclear conflict.

In Islamabad, analyst Ifrahim Mahmood said the test was probably meant as a message to domestic hawk-lovers who claim that President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's government were "saddened by glaring concessions to India." AP

## Americans look to Asia for affordable surgeries

WASHINGTON—JOHN WAYNE Bronson's visited his doctor earlier this year he found was options at their undergo open heart surgery in the US for $100,000 dollars or have it done in India for $, 700 dollars.

"I chose India," the 58-year-old unmarried building contractor from Florida told AFP, reflecting a growing trend among middle-class Americans who are heading

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Israel raids Gaza Strip after rocket death

GAZA CITY – Israeli warplanes raided the Gaza Strip overnight hours after an Israeli woman was killed by Palestinian rocket fire from Gaza, with the Jewish state vowing to retaliate against militants who would "pay a heavy price." Fatima Hashem, a 52-year-old mother of four, died of wounds she suffered when a rocket struck early Wednesday in a street in the town of Sderot, 4 km north of Gaza, police and medics said. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered the army to continue its lethal four-month offensive in the southern strip following the death. AFP

### Human error to blame for Europe blackout

BERLIN – Germany's biggest power supplier said on Wednesday that human error was to blame for the electricity cut that plunged parts of western Europe into darkness on Nov. 4. E.ON said the switching off of an electricity line over the Ems River in western Germany to allow a cruise ship to pass through, 200 grid controllers outage of a second transmission line, "set off the domino effect which led to the temporary disconnection of the European interconnected power grid." The power outage left 10 million people – half of them in France – in the dark and created a chilly standstill. AFP

### Kabila wins vote in tense DR Congo

KINSHASA – Incumbent Joseph Kabila won on Wednesday declared the winner of the Democratic Republic of Congo's bitterly contested presidential election, sparking celebrations in the east Congo protests from his challenger's camp. Kabila, Africa's youngest head of state at 35, took 58.05 percent of the vote in the Oct. 29 second-round ballot, compared with 41.95 percent for Jean-Pierre Bemba, the country's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) said. Kabila was first appointed president in 2001 after the assassination of his father Laurent-Desire Kabila, who had ruled the country's Democratic Republic. Mobutu Sese Seko in 1997. AFP

### LA man draws 11 years for beating homeless man

LOS ANGELES – A 27-year-old man convicted of attack for beating two homeless men with a baseball bat was sentenced Friday to 11 years in state prison. Superior Court Judge Sam Ohta said the August 2006 beatings were "atrocious" and carried out "for sport against some of the most vulnerable people." He noted that the victims were attacked as they slept on the street. Ohta said Justin Edward Hansford showed no remorse when he was interviewed on videotape by police. The judge also noted that Hansford had an opportunity to think about what he did after hitting Donald McKinney, but instead said he took for another victim to attack. AFP

PREDATOR

A Steppe Eagle with its eyes on a pigeon that fell prey via the bird Nov. 15, in Qasar el Wahat, Libya. The hawk winters throughout Africa and has been known to grab birds from branches and in mid-air.

## *Antibiotics ineffective vs bronchitis*

WASHINGTON—A US STUDY HAS FOUND no evidence that antibiotics are effective against most cases of acute bronchitis and researchers recommended that doctors stop prescribing the drugs to treat them.

Prescribing antibiotics in treat these tests bronchitis is unnecessary since nearly all the causes of such infections are viral and therefore do not respond to the therapy, according to the study published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"There is a long history of patients receiving antibiotics for acute bronchitis and they have come to expect receiving a prescription for treatment," said Richard Bonny, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine professor and author of the study.

Acute bronchitis is a common condition caused by inflammation of the bronchi of the lungs found in five percent of adults each year. AFP

# Scientists grow heart valves from stem cells

## Give hope for defect repairs in babies

CHICAGO—FOR THE FIRST TIME, SCIENtists have grown human heart valves using stem cells from the fluid that cushions babies in the womb—offering a revolutionary approach that may be used to repair defective hearts in the future.

The idea is to create the new valves in the lab while the pregnancy progresses and have them ready to implant in a baby when it is born.

The Swiss experiment follows recent successes at growing bladders and blood vessels and suggests that people may one day be able to grow their own replacement heart parts—fit in some cases, even before they are even born.

It is one of several cell-tissue engineering advances that could lead to home-grown heart valves for infants and adults that are more durable and effective than artificial or cadaver valves.

"This may open a whole new therapy concept to the treatment of congenital heart defects," said Dr. Simon Hoerstrup, a University of Zurich scientist who led the work, which was presented Wednesday at an American Heart Association conference.

Also at the meeting, Japanese researchers said they had grown new heart valves in rabbits using cells from the animals' own tissue. It is the first time replacement heart valves have been created in this manner, said lead author Dr. Ryoko Yoyoshida.

"It's very promising," University of Chicago cardiologist Dr. Ujwal Pillutla said of the two studies. "I don't doubt" that it will be applied one day in humans, he said.

One percent of all newborns, or more than one million babies born worldwide each year, have heart problems. Those kill more babies in the United States in the first year of life than any other birth defect, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Heart valve defects can be detected with ultrasound tests at about 20 weeks of pregnancy. At least one-third of afflicted infants have problems that could be treated with replacement valves, Hoerstrup said.

"It could be quite important if it were not so much," said Dr. Robert Bonow, a Northwestern University heart valve specialist.

Conventional procedures to fix faulty heart valves all have drawbacks. Artificial valves are prone to blood clots and patients must take anticlotting drugs for life. Valves from human cadavers or animals can drive tissue, requiring repeated open-heart surgeries to replace them, Hijazi said. That is especially true in children, because those valves don't grow along with the body.

Valves made from the patient's own cells can living tissue and might be able to grow with the patient, said Hoerstrup, a scientist at the National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute in Osaka.

The Swiss procedure has another advantage. Using cells the fetus sheds in amniotic fluid avoids controversy because it doesn't involve destroying embryos to get stem cells.

"This is an ethical advantage," Hoerstrup said at the meeting.

Hoerstrup said amniotic stem cells also can be frozen for years and potentially could be used to create replacement parts for aging or diseased valves in adults, too.

The research is preliminary, and experts say implanting tissue-engineered human valves in human hearts is likely years away.

Dr. John E. Mayer Jr., a Children's Hospital Boston heart surgeon and tissue engineering pioneer, said scientists are optimistic that this area of research will revolutionize how people with valve disease will be cared for in the future.

About 250,000 patients worldwide have surgery to replace heart parts each year, according to Mayer.

Hoerstrup said amniotic fluid is potentially a richer source of stem cells than other sources.

Mayer said the big question is whether stem cells from amniotic fluid can create valves superior to those made from other cell/scaffold types.

"I'm pretty sure the ball will continue to be advanced down the field," Mayer said. "We'll get there one way or the other." AP

The WORLD

Lira Lorenzo B. Suazo

# Bush demands review of Iraq policy

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES SAID WEDNESDAY it had launched a nuts and bolts review of policy in Iraq, as lawmakers angry at deepening anarchy in the country roasted the top US general in the Middle East.

Debate over the US entanglement in Iraq reached new heights one week after US voters punished congressional Republicans over the conflict, which has killed more than 2,800 US troops and thousands of Iraqi civilians.

The White House said President George W. Bush formally ordered disparate reviews from his national security agencies and governmental departments of US strategy in Iraq to be gathered in a single, comprehensive internal report following a string of meetings with top advisers.

"For many weeks we have been doing a series of reviews, fairly discreetly," national security adviser Stephen Hadley told reporters aboard Air Force One as Bush flew to Asia.

Bush "thought it was high time that those reviews be brought together and put in an integrated form so he can get a look at it and begin getting in his own mind what the way forward needs to be in Iraq," Hadley said.

The internal review would not conflict with the Iraq Study Group, a panel of veteran Washington power brokers expected to deliver its eagerly awaited report on the way forward in Iraq within weeks, Hadley said.

The probe is being seen as a face-saving way for Bush to adopt his previous "stay the course" strategy and a way for political rivals to embrace on a consensus approach to the bloody occupation.

The review ordered by Bush would go into a deeper level of detail, Hadley said. The Pentagon would examine "what forces would go where and do what, the kind of thing a blue-ribbon panel could never do," Hadley said.

State Department officials would be looking at "a lot of nuts and bolts" on "how you would implement some of these options that people are looking at," Hadley said.

Some of the more candid debate yet over Iraq came amid rising demands for

**BUSH** with godchildren at the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore Nov. 16. AFP

US troops to be brought home and stinging criticism of the Bush administration's approach, amid signs a sea-change in US strategy in Iraq may be imminent.

It was also a taste of the intense scrutiny expected when Democrats take over control of the new Congress which convenes in January and which many demand for a phased withdrawal of more than 140,000 US troops.

General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, faced a barrage of questions, comments and complaints at a fiery hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the first such routine open elections but much seen by politicians created of both chambers of Congress.

"I regret deeply that you seem to think the status quo and the rate of progress we're making is acceptable. I think most Americans do not," said Sen. John McCain, a potential 2008 Republican presidential candidate.

Democratic Sen. Carl Levin told Abizaid, "The American people don't accept the president's recent assessment that 'absolutely we're winning' in Iraq, nor should they" Sen. Hillary Clinton bluntly added : "The situation in Iraq ... by any metric that I've seen of, is not improving." "Hope is not a strategy," she said. "Talk about what the Iraqi government must do is getting old ... the literal fact is, it is not happening." Despite the onslaught and what he admitted were "disagreeably high" sectarian violence, Abizaid said he was "optimistic" Iraq could be stabilized and dispersed during a US troops were needed.

Insurance attacks are down from record troop levels, the status of US efforts to train Iraqi forces and the extent to which they were able to take over security tasks from the US garrison. AFP


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FREE! Installation Package
• 0% interest, 6 months to pay


# US soldier in Iraqi rape pleads guilty

FT. CAMPBELL, Ky.—ONE OF FOUR US SOLDIERS accused of raping a 14-year-old Iraqi girl before killing her and her family pleaded guilty on Wednesday at the start of his court-martial on a charge by military base.

In a separate case, a military tribunal in Camp Pendleton, California, sentenced a Marine to 15 months in prison for his role in the killing of an Iraqi grandfather in Hamdania in a case involving eight US servicemen.

At Ft. Campbell, Spc. James Barker pleaded guilty to rape and murder. He faces life imprisonment with parole. He does not face the death penalty and his sentence will be determined at the end of the proceeding, which is expected to last two days.

Barker provided graphic testimony to military investigators about the March 2006 incident in Mahmudiya that was used at a military proceeding in Baghdad last August, leading to charges against the four and one former soldier.

Another soldier accused in the case, Spc. Paul Cortez, was also arraigned Wednesday at the start of his court-martial. He was likely to enter a plea on Fri. 17 and could be sentenced to death if convicted.

The Mahmudiya case, the killing of 24 people in Haditha, and other incidents have sparked outrage among Iraqis. The gang rape case led Iraqi officials to call for an end to US troops accused of crimes in Iraqi prosecution.

In the case at Camp Pendleton near San Diego, Pfc. John Jodka, the second defendant sentenced in the April 26 death of Hashim Ibrahim Awad, pleaded guilty last month to charges of assault and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Under a plea deal his sentence is lessened to six with government prosecutors, Jodka will serve an 18-month sentence in the military brig—getting credit for about six months spent in confinement—if he agrees to testify against his squad mates and naval prosecutors.

That was a better deal than the sentence issued by the military judge, Marine Lt. Col. David Jones, who sentenced him to a five-year prison term. Reuters

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# SPORTS

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# Morales wants respect, faith of boxing public

MORALES talks at the clinic he needs to do to beat Pacquiao in a press conference at the Top Rank gym Wednesday.

By Francis Dalisay

LAS VEGAS—FOR ERIK MORALES, THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGHT of his career right now isn't just about validating what little faith the boxing public has in him. It's about getting the rest of the world to believe in him again.

Morales, "El Terrible" to a boxing world that toasted him once but has cast serious doubts on his ability as, surely, best Manny Pacquiao for the third and final time in a normal 4-ring that it fittingly called The Grand Finale on Nov. 18 (Nov. 19 in Manila) at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Thomas-and-Mack Center here.

He is not after climbing the no-two-winner after splitting their first two matches. He is not after the comeback trophies—the WBC interconti- nental featherweight belt.

He is after respect. He is after people's faith.

"Everybody knows how hard I've had to work to make 130," Morales told journalists through an interpreter, referring to the weight limit for super featherweights. "[But] that's all part of trying to show people that they can believe in me again."

"The important thing here is to win the fight and get everyone's respect back," said the 28-year-old Mexi- can warrior.

Faith and respect. Those were the two intangibles that replaced Morales' whom he has three of his last four fights—a questionable decision to Marco Antonio Barrera, a stunning upset to Zahir Raheem and a humbling knockout to Pacquiao.

The loss struck that month was a calculating dismantling of Pacquiao, a triumph that provided the Mexican ring icon with a blueprint for this rematch. And having such a blueprint is important for Morales, who was able to focus his training for the fight on a battle he needs to win before stepping in front of the power-punching Pacquiao.

"I think the adjustments we need to make are one outside the ring," said Morales, referring to his problems making the 130-pound limit.

He solved that by enrolling with the Nobody Fitness Center, which

MORALES, A24

# Pacquiao right on target 3 days to go

PACQUIAO

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACquiao is right where, where his camp wants him to be, three days to fight night.

Trainer Freddie Roach said Wednesday afternoon that the Filipino boxing hero flipped the scales that day and clocked in at 131 pounds, just one over the limit in the super featherweight division where he and Mexican Erik Morales will duke it out for the right to be called the best of the best on Nov. 18 (Nov. 19 in Manila).

And here's further good news: The weighing suits Pacquiao and was a deliberate one.

"The machine was the two pounds off we going by that, he's around 129 right now," Roach said.

Small wonder that Pacquiao was in a good mood into Wednesday afternoon, talking about going to his hotel's casino.

"They're going to calibrate the scales to see how much he really weighs but it looks like he'll have no problem in the area.

Then again, it hasn't been Pacquiao (43-3-2, 32 KOs) whose been bothered by weight problems before but his arch-nemesis Morales (48-4,

PACQUIAO, A23

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BOBBY PACQUIAO

# B. Pacquiao fails to make weight, stripped of title

LAS VEGAS—BOBBY PACQUIAO forfeited his World Boxing Council Continental Americas superfeatherweight title after failing to make the weight at the official weigh-in held yesterday at the Mandalay Bay Resort of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino here.

The younger brother of the more popular Manny Pacquiao came in at 133 lbs. and refused to lose weight any further although he would have been given a two-hour period to make all the extra poundage and make the 130-lb limit.

Hector Velazquez, Bobby's challenger, came in at a trim 129 lbs. and will be declared the new champion if he prevails today. If Pacquiao wins, the title would be declared vacant.

"Hindi ko na talaga kaya. Ok lang, para bukas may laban pa akong dalaw (I just could not make it. It's OK as I can still have some strength for tomorrow's fight)," said Pacquiao, who is fighting a 4-6 cut his brother had allegedly suffered in a non-title bout last year.

Bobby Pacquiao said that's how far he could move down, and he did not want to endure any more weight reduction. "Ayaw ko nang (I don't want to)," said Pacquiao, who supervised the weigh-in.

But failing to make the weight, Glen and Pacquiao will forfeit 10 percent of his $45,000 purse, although he will not be asked to wear bigger gloves. Five percent of the amount will go to the Pacquiao, while the other five percent will go to the WBAC, Inc. Sarbacan, Jr. correspondent, contributor

# Pacquiao . . .

From page A21

Pacquiao said he is praying that neither he nor Morales gets seriously hurt in the match, vowing again to give it his best to win honor for his country.

"I also include Morales in my prayers," Pacquiao told a television journalist in Filipino. "I pray that none of us get hurt. I know it's boxing and we still say to treat each other but I hope it never be so serious that we have to be taken to the hospital."

Both fighters are eagerly looking forward to a match that has this entire desert oasis in Nevada buzzing with excitement.

In fact, whenever Pacquiao dons his eyes to shift to sleep, he often conjures dreams this month.

"I dream about Morales and this fight a lot," he admitted, refusing to reveal the details of those dreams.

# Morales . . .

From page A21

stunned closer his weight without losing him power and spent like he was in the January fight against Pacquiao, where he was knocked out in the 10th round. The stoppage was the first in his career.

In his meeting with the press Thursday afternoon at the Top Rank gym, Morales sported the healthy glow of one who did not have to cram to lose weight. Whether or not the power is still there despite the extra shed formed on him by his body will be known on fight night.

And it will be weight where Morales won't specifically try to stay away from Pacquiao because he knows he needs to win convincingly to stay doubters look to his job. So, Saturday night would be a time to see.

"There's going to be a part when you have to stand up [and face Pacquiao's punches]," he said.

Aside from the conditioning that Morales put him through, Morales feels he has the edge more that his father, Jose, a boxer in his prime. Jose was not in Morales' corner for the first time in his career just to be there, he said.

"We're going to double what's the best," said Morales.

HARBOUR Cavers jostles Mobile and Pacquiao Sr. of Phil & Mara leads for the ball in yesterday's game at the University Santo Tomas gym.

# Hapee-PCU rips Kettle; H. Centre up

By Mussig R. Castillo

JASON CASTRO SCORED 15 POINTS AND DISHED OUT 10 ASSISTS, leading Hapee-PCU to an impressive 93-56 whipping of Kettle Sizzlers-Santos-Tomas for the solo lead in the PBL Silver Cup at the University of Santo Tomas gym yesterday.

In winning for the second straight time, the Tenth Masters held the Tigers, the reigning DAAP champs, to seven points in the third quarter to finish the game-pulling away.

Hapee led by as many as 32 points, 89-57, after a Lui Navarro short was in the middle of the fourth period to deal the Tigers a mercy-rule trudging.

The Tigers, who are campaigning in this tournament with basically the same team that won the DAAP crown but without Jerry Cruz because of eligibility technicalities, led after the first period and was tugging at the coattails of the Tenth Masters until the third period.

Hapee Coach Cruz decided to free victory against a defeat earlier, breaking loose from defending and Mayo supporting the third period for a 75-63 win.

Guards Chito Lazaro and Al Magpoc paced the Red Masters with 14 points each with former La Salle big man Jervin Gruz finishing close up with 13 and Dan Capati winding up with nine.

Lazaro hit nine of his total in the final half, while Magpoc pocketed his triple in the fourth period to Hapee's Ramon Garcia, the chairman in the Unity Cup which has its section, including Joseph Ibe, LA Tenorio and Bob Reyes, among others, as the pre-teams.

The Cuisers got 13 points from Jeffrey Navarro and 12 from Vergara standout JR Quiñahan and 10 from Nestor Garcia, but Wall and Mote, despite leading 22-16 after the first period, steadily fell behind with no one able to step up.

**The scores:**

**Hapee 93** – Castro 15, Lazaro 14, Vergara 14, Ibea 13, Capati 9, Mamo 8, Arao 5, Arao 4, Abuda 4, Zarate 3, Santos 2, Delgado 2, Antillo 0, Aquino 0

**PCU 56** – Quiñahan 12, Garcia 10, Santos 8, Cayetano 6, Cayabyab 5, Pelobello 4, Vito 2, Tio 0, Bautista 2, Catacutan 2, Rosa 2, Aquino 2, Del Rosario 2

**Quarters:** 16-10, 38-33, 63-43, 93-63

## SPORTSWATCH

### CKP16S.com, Pacific Superbox win

CKP16S.com and Pacific Superbox bagged straight wins in the Philippine Volleyball League's Open Conference as the two squads remained atop the league's MBT Conference standings after the fifth day of play at Mandaluyong. The CKP16S.com spikers outlasted their PHC Whirlpool counterparts, 15-11, while the Kings topped the Philippine Navymen, 15-12, to stake an early lead in the standings at 2-1. Mighty Wise Kings overpowered ESC Cubao, 15-14, earlier to also make their second win in three starts in the event run by Metro Basketball Management and featured on the Mahindra Thunder power tourney. Thursday at 11 a.m. on IBC 13. Air Bilog banged into the win column with an 80-28 whipping of Team Bali.

### UE, UST spikers show way

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST AND UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS SHOWED THE way to the state U.C. Softball Open conference volleyball tournament by staying unscathed in three games in the boys and girls divisions, UST is in Wednesday Group A and UE's Group B, while UE, host of the tournament that honors multititled volleyball coach Francisco "Boner" Tolentino and organized by UE sports director Glenn Tolentino, takes the same route in Group B also of the Boys and Girls divisions. UST head school DYCK Anthony Lagos, 25-17, 25-17, and Tolentino, added UE-trained Philippine Institute of Science Cup, 25-13, 25-15.

### Toyota Vios stroked for ace in Legend Tee

A HOLE-IN-ONE AND A CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF CART ARE LINE UP FOR grabs as holes-in-one prizes in the sixth Legend Tee golf tournament today, Nov. 17, at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Paranaque. Also at stake are merchandise for the hole's dash's Legendary Gold Club plus fabulous prizes in the event categories and special awards. Organized by the Legend International Resorts Ltd., this event is being staged to promote leisure and sports as well as to support the Philippine Sports Commission's Search for Champions Foundation Inc. Registration is ongoing with a P5,000 fee per member of two players.

### Tough Truck Challenge Nov. 26

THE COUNTRY'S BEST OFF-ROADERS AND THE MOST COMPETITIVE MODIFIED 4x4 Pickup fans will battle center stage on the 2006 Philippine Tough Truck Challenge set Nov. 25-26 at the Freedom Fields, Tambobong, Bulacan in Pasig City. The event organized by the Manila Off-Roaders Inc. under its president Peter Galvez is expected to have a big turnout of 4x4 drivers from Baguio, the home region, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Davao. It will serve as the championship round of the National Off-Road Racing Association. Serbacan, contributor

### Underbone invitational Sunday

UNDERBONE MOTOR RACING TEAM PHILIPPINES AGAIN IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS THE Team Philippines Underbone Invitational Motocross Championship will be held at Batangas Racing Circuit. The competition, sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association Chairman, is open to all riders with Philippine licensed 4-stroke underbone motorcycles. Newly crowned Philippine Underbone champs and Yamaha riders Jaime Garcia and Aaron Jones are teaming up by high noon in their respective divisions. Contact MRC Operations Manager Rodel Mercado or Motocross Director Al Gonzales, 817-3247, 729-6886 or fax 813-1295.

### Pasay cockfest today

THE 2006-2007 COCKFIGHTING SEASON'S FIGHT AT PASAY CITY COCKPIT VIA Pasay City Cockfighting Corporation (PCCC) will start today with the 2006 PCCC Elimination Derby. Gov. Sir Vicente and Rio de Guzman, Dondel Jon Pagdilao, Rudy Lopez, Boy Cervantes, Ely Manalastas, Lito Roque, Abiel Cordero, Rex Rivera, Ted Lacson, Roger Segismundo and Pandot Co. Head Running Perspective put up a purse worth of P300,000 for an entry fee of P10,000. Another 4-cock derby, basis of fees, 3rd entry for 2006 group of more. For inquiries, call Atty. Ramon Tuason, Chief Executive Secretary at 833-1111 or 833-2222.

### Super Angel derby Nov. 25

ANOTHER 4-COCKER DERBY SCHEDULED TODAY AT THE ANGELES CITY COCKPIT VIA Angeles City Cockfighting Corporation (ACCC) with 64 entries already confirmed. Derby is limited to 64 entries, according to Atty. Rodel Mercado. The winners will receive a guaranteed purse of P300,000. Derby is scheduled at 5:45 p.m. on Sunday for weigh-in. Call (02) 8356-0001/725-5001 for details. Meanwhile, more than 100 fights logged at SJC Entrance as the 2006 NPC Invitational Invitation 8-cock derby ended without incidents. The championship of the Grand 8-cock derby entries will be on Nov. 25.

# Guess whose ghost haunts Erik Morales?

LAS VEGAS—THE BOXING ABOLISHOS but, despite the undeniable animosity, Manny Pacquiao continues to swear he doesn't see an enemy in Erik Morales.

"I also pray for him," Pacquiao loves to explain.

They don't quarrel, as far as the Pacman is concerned, they merely compete [against each other].

Surely, that the same cannot be said of Morales.

The deadly desire to avenge the only knockout loss of his career from Pacquiao's blazing first 19 months ago that became the theme of Saturday's Grand Finale, which could go down as the fight of the year.

* * *

Morales, 30, could not be blamed.

He has every reason to be bitter.

He did lose three of his last four bouts but the 10th round fall against Pacquiao last January made it appear Morales' career had been pushed to an unscheduled tragic ending.

Bizarre had by a younger rival he had previously outpolished, Morales was perceived as damaged good, with no hope whatsoever of being properly repaired.

* * *

Oh, with El Terrible's much-publicized bitter struggle against excess poundage, there were

BOXING

BARE EYE

*Recab Trinidad*

some suggestions Pacquiao could end up fighting a rich man if the 12-round encounter on Saturday stretches to the second half.

No way. To the surprise of many, there was hardly a crack when Morales faced the international press for the first time yesterday after a lengthy training under the guidance of renowned conditioning experts.

He looks sharp and refined.

Morales, looking young again, was every inch a motivated hero.

Of course, he could not hide a deep hurt when the talk led to a possible second stepping to the hands of Pacquiao.

* * *

**It was a thought that many've haunted him all these past months.**

One expert was right. Morales might now be seeing Pacquiao whenever he looks at the mirror.

Savoring Morales, holding court while proudly perched like a prince on the apron of the ring at the Top Rank Gym on Hermosa Lane here, tried to shake off the memories of his unsightly escape.

"We [Pacquiao] didn't debut yet," Morales bragged through an interpreter. "I did not lose that fight. He did not hurt me. He did not beat me. No. I merely got tired because I did not prepare properly."

**For proof, Morales claimed he was beating in all the cards until the ninth round.**

* * *

Technique, what technique? Morales sneered. Pacquiao has no technique, all he knows is punch, punch and punch.

There has been no new style, no improvement, Morales continued. Pacquiao was still the ruthless puncher he faced and defeated in their first encounter in March 2005.

The defeat? It was all an accident and Pacquiao just passed very lucky, Morales maintained.

Anyway, when he last visited the mirror, Morales' mirror's again was something he liked and like to see there.

Which only proved what one fighter—who had been knocked out—knew was his biggest fear.

The victim could be endlessly feared being knocked out again.

So need to ask Morales the same question today.

# Winslow survives test run

GIVEN STRICT ORDERS TO TAKE IT EASY IN his first drive and leave the nuisances of the rivals, reigning driver Nestor Winslow Jr. Gonzales-James Winslow survived his first practice run in the Macau Grand Prix yesterday avoiding the blinding crashes that sent several drivers out of the race.

AFI managing director Mark Goddard said Winslow's team, Top Speed, instructed the Filipino driver to first observe Macau as chaotic practice runs in one piece and go for it to qualifying today.

"Tomorrow is when it counts and we are sure we can finish in the top 20 which is our aim in the qualifying session. We are running against experience and drivers in the race but as car that's new to Asians and a top 20 starting place on the grid will be a great result," said Goddard.

Winslow, whose Macau stint is supported by San Miguel Corp. and the AFI, finished the best time of 2 minutes, 23.6 seconds in the morning session. The best time was unbeaten and by Marco Antonio who clocked 2: 11.9.

"I had hoped to get under 2:20 today but several accidents stopped the session early. I am sure tomorrow I will be much faster. One aim is to get into the top 20," said Winslow, 25, a driving licensee at the Silverstone Circuit in England.

The second of two practice sessions yesterday was marked by several crashes, the most serious involving Tom's Toyota's Adrian Sutil who hit a wall and damaged his car beyond repair.

From page A21

BY TOP CHOICE

# Arevalo advances to ITF tilt q'finals

AREVALO

## Iloilo hosts SBP Passerelle Visayas

THE 2006 MILO BEST GRASSROOTS OF THE Philippines (SBP) Passerelle Visayas regional finals will be held this weekend at the Iloilo Central Commercial High School in Iloilo City. Ateneo de Iloilo, St. John Institute Bacolod and University of San Carlos Cebu will vie for the SBP crown while Ateneo de Iloilo, University of St. La Salle Bacolod and University of San Carlos Cebu will compete for the Passerelle title. Winners of this tilt will see action at the national finals together with other regional finalists from the National Capital Region, Luzon and Mindanao on Nov. 23-26 at the University of Assumption in Pampanga.

By Jasmine W. Payo

HER EARLY EXIT LAST WEEK HAS BEEN her prime motivation.

Charina Mae Arevalo, the country's top-ranked lass, continued to flash renewed vigor in ousting Hong Nan of China, 6-3, 6-1, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the $10,000 Malaysia ITF Women's Circuit 2 at the Bukit Mertajam Tennis Centre.

"I had an early exit in the first leg, hopefully I'll perform better this week," said the 21-year-old Arevalo, who will be competing in the Dubai Asian Games next month.

Arevalo will battle the winner between fifth-seeded Xie Shao-yuan of Taiwan and Hiu Ju-hyeong of Korea, one of several matches delayed yesterday due to inclement weather.

Gender Dy, the 17-year-old Filipina-American who crashed out of the singles competition on Wednesday, teamed up with Arevalo in repulsing Irina Mellina Bert and Japanese Natsu Tatsuta, 6-3, 6-0, to reach the doubles quarterfinals.

Arevalo and Dy will meet Lee Ye Kuan of Hong Kong and Christine Stretton of the United States, who won over wild card bets Wanapa Wijitsomboon of Thailand and Julie Mortimy of Australia, 2-3, 6-1, 6-1. Philippine bet Anja Venancio Wee and Fil-Japanese Mai Inoue ousted Siamese Sid and Li Hsiao of China, 6-1, 6-4.

## Dance sport comes of age

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo B. Iñigo

SINCE 1998 WHEN IT WAS FOUNDED, THE Dance Sport Council of the Philippines has made enormous strides, producing world-class dance athletes and staging several local and international tournaments such as this weekend's DSCP National Championships and 2nd Manila DSSF (International Dance Sport Federation) Open (Latin and Standard) competition at the Philsports Arena.

Organized by a group of business-civic leaders headed by Becky Garcia, DSCP has joined the Germany-based International Dance Sport Federation, the ruling body for amateur dance, and the World Dance and Dance Sport Council, the governing body for professional dance with headquarters in London.

"Through the years we were able to survive despite our limited resources, and even invited renowned foreign coaches and IDSF-licensed adjudicators to come here," said the petite Garcia, who is also chair of the education and culture committee of the Philippine Olympic Committee. "We want to make our local dancers globally competitive. We have a lot of good dancers, but sadly, they would rather remain as dance instructors (DI) and earn money."

Some of the world's top professional dancers have performed here recently, including many-time Latin champion Jaime Hagelstein and Gaya Aunova of Finland, Russian standard dancers Sacha and Olga Zuskevitch, European Latin champions Jason Rubin and Jessica Bennich of Ginnes, Madrid de Rijk, chair of the dance teachers committee of World dance and dance sport council, and Ian White and Sandra Postma, Dutch professional ballroom champions.

Dance sport continues to prosper locally mainly because of the support of both the private and government sectors. For instance, this weekend's competitions will be sponsored by Petron Corp., Pagcor, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, PCSO, Joey GLO Rhythm, Lilet Showgirl (a shoe), Wear 2 Tone, Bioxsys, Swimsuit Muse, Manila Times and Philippine Star. Mr. Antonio de Castro, an active ballroom dancing supporter herself, is the overall chairperson of this year's star-studded event.

She will be assisted by DSCP board members composed of lawyer Noel Lamata, chair; lawyer Jonathan Jr. Wee Sabina, secretary general; bank executive Gloria Alcala, treasurer, and directors Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, lawyer Andy Fernley, Manolo Go, Juanjo Yulo, Edward Kinpo, Baby Co, Chona Mercado, Maestro Mendoza, Emma Nieto, Rebecca Jose, Cebuano Rendon and Victoria Alix. Dance athletes from Russia, China, Latvia, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Macau, Hong Kong, Gabali, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and host Philippines are competing in both Latin and Standard categories.

Spearheading the Philippine campaign are the gold medal winners of the recent Hong Kong Open—Marvin Marquez and Rebecca Jose, Leonardo Telebrunno and Chona Mercado, Troy Trinidad and Jessica Chua and the Siu Hsiao-Cynchia Maureen tandem; veteran international Emmanuel Reyes and Maica Rosete, John Emilio Meloreto and Jocelyn Gervacio and Richard Obong Asuncion Cuizon Jr.

## Sherwood Chairman's Cup slated

THE ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S Cup of the Sherwood Hills Golf Club will be played tomorrow at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Members and guests will be playing the best-ball with full handicap format in the 18-hole event.

Robert John Sobrepeña, chair of the board of Sherwood Hills which hosting the event, lauds the participants including his teammates for the recent Federation Cup where they rendered the semifinals for the first time.

Pilipinas is giving away a brand new golf set for the first hole-in-one on a designated hole.

A stake on the overall net and overall gross score trophies and the top awards in Class A and Class B.

## Alabang up in golf meet

The fierce Turbo-Diesel Common-Rail Duratorq engine, found under the hood of the all-new Ford Ranger. Capable of taking up to 3% blend bio-diesel fuel, the monster of an engine gives the Ranger a class-leading 143Phn of torque for best-in-class towing and payload capacity. That's more pulling power than ever before.
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# First batch of Asiad bets leaves today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHAR THE COUNTRY'S COLORS proud.

With that exhortation from Philippine Sports Commission chair Ritchi Ramirez, the first batch of Team Philippines was hailed for Qatar for the Doha Asian Games yesterday.

At least four personnel from the seven-unit staff flew to the Middle East to advance parties to more than 400 delegation members for the Dec. 1-15 Games. They include Task Force officials Nestor Ilagan and PSC commissioner Heidi Garcia.

Some 30 athletes from sailing will leave today, hoping to get there ahead of the other competitors to be able to pick the better boats from among those being rented out or still listed here.

The main bulk leaving on Nov. 26 will include 70 athletes.

Another 260, some 209 of the 229 Asiad-bound athletes at the Rizal Memorial badminton hall in a simple send-off ceremony Wednesday night.

"Remember that when you arrive there, you will be carrying the name of our country, so wear it proud," said Ramirez. "There will no longer be a PSC or POC (Philippine Olympic Committee) there, but Philippines."

POC president Peping Cojuangco told the Asiad athletes to give it their best shot. "No matter the outcome, the important thing is that you gave it your best out there."

The athletes also received their Team Philippines luggage that contained their track suits and rubber shoes and a handheld shower for Doha's humid.

"It is important that everybody is aware of the current numbers of authorities in case of emergency, the dos and don'ts in Qatar as well as travel tips," said Ramirez of the handbook.

With President Macapagal-Arroyo in Vietnam for the Apec summit, officials had looked forward to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo greeting the send-off ceremony but he missed the affair.

Former Asian Games medalists Bong Coo of bowling and Mona Sulaiman of track and field gave inspirational speeches during the occasion.

Bowling Hall of Famer Bong Stopenzieza also received the 10th flag from Ramirez as flag bearer of the 10th contingent during the opening ceremony for the second time in his career.

ROBINSON: Sweet revenge

# Peaking Giants face Express

ANTHONY Washington of Talk 'N Text (left) and Kenny Raymundo of Purefoods battle for position in this file photo. INQUIRER

WITH PUREFOODS TIED FOR SECOND place, coach Ryan Gregorio feels his defending champion Ginebra Giants are peaking at the right time.

"After our pace, because right now, the target is a Top 2 spot, and, from where I sit, we have a good shot," Gregorio told the Inquirer yesterday, just after winding up preparations for a crucial collision with Air21 today in the PBA Philippine Cup.

The Giants clash with the Express in the 7:20 p.m. game at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, with Gregorio hoping to stone-unstoned in his return from with the Express. Purefoods easily blew a 29-point spread to think first evening.

"We have a chance to temporarily gain second spot," Gregorio said. "That's for motivation right now. But our problem is how to keep to step with an athletic and energetic team like Air21."

Alaska, meanwhile, tries to get out of the cellar earlier when it tangles with newcomer Welcoat in the 4:35 p.m. contest.

Alaska is struggling in the tournament after losing cornerstone Mike Cortez to a season-ending knee injury, and Welcoat has made headlines by bringing down some pretty tough teams, including Talk N Text in Tuesday's win.

The Aces, who lost five straight games at one point, have languished in the basement and could get out of the Red Zone within a win.

After a 1-3 start, the Giants have won five of their last six games and are tied for second spot with three other high-profile teams, just two points behind the leading B-Meg Llamados of Siot Lucia.

"At this point, we have to just keep on piling up the wins," Gregorio added. "We cannot afford to think of how wins the other teams are because the standings are just too tight at the moment."

On Oct. 31, it looked like Purefoods was on the way to posting one of the most lopsided wins in the tournament, until the Express gained steam and almost turned it around but Purefoods limped down a three-pointer at the buzzer of a 101-100 AHEAD win.

That game also proved to be the wake-up call for the Express, who have won three of their next seven games since then and are in a position to advance to the quarterfinals. Manong R. Castillo

**LAKAS-TODAY**
Alaska Cafeteria
4:35 p.m. – Welcoat
vs Alaska
7:20 p.m. – Air21
vs Purefoods

# Laos subdues Timor Leste

By Cedell P. Tigas

BACOLOD CITY—A LAST-GASP header from Sayakhoummixay Phommasouvanh lifted a haggard-out Laos side to a tight 3-2 victory over Timor Leste last night for the solo lead in the Asian Football Championship Qualifiers at the Panaad Park and Stadium here.

The win inked the Lastmen' tally to seven points, putting them in a strong position to claim one of the two slots for the main tournament that will be held next year in Thailand and Singapore.

The Philippines is in second place with three points in two games just like Myanmar, which is storing action against fourth-running Cambodia at presstime.

Playing their third match in as few days, the lastmen hardly showed the hints that lifted them past the Filipinos, 2-1, last Sunday.

Thanks to a brilliant individual effort from Phommasouvanh in injury time, they thwarted the Timorese squad that equalized through Adolfo Maria Da Costa, who side-footed Antonio Simenes' cross from the left flank.

With the Timor boosters still in a euphoric mood, Phommasouvanh was unpretentiously to Phagandleh Sathongpeth's seemingly harmless cross to seal the three points.

The Timorese, who outflared a humiliating 7-0 defeat at the hands of the Philippines, remained winless in three games.

# Pagunsan 3 shots off in Hong Kong

HONGKONG—JYOTI RANDHAWA OF INDIA and Spain's Jose Manuel Lara shot matching six-under-par 66s for a share of the lead after the first round of the Hong Kong Open on Thursday.

Defending champion Colin Montgomerie had a frustrating start to the $2 million tournament, carding a string of pars to end the day on one-under, while two-time US Open Champion Retief Goosen finished on level par after picking up three bogeys.

Rookie pro Juvic Pagunsan shot a 67 and was the best among three Filipinos in the field. Angelo Que also had a 69 like Rhenpoomin but RP No. 1 Frankie Miñoza was in danger of missing the halfway cut after opening with a 74.

Randhawa notched up seven birdies in a controlled round, including one at the 18th after a beautifully-judged approach shot over water that dropped less than a foot from the hole. Reuters

# Robinson turns back archrival

ORMOC CITY—ROMEO ROBINSON OF NEW Zealand reached round coverage over archrival Glenn Aguilar of the Philippines, ruling the three-cushion event Tuesday leg of the Cignal Tri-persimon International Championship Series 2005 before a huge crowd at the Ormoc Sports Center here Sunday.

Nicknamed "The Hobo" by superiors but all over Asia, Robinson capitalized on a weak spell by Aguilar while registering a slippery turn in front of the grandstand to the second and final stats to match the win and earn top honors in the nonstopper pro 120 category.

Robinson finished with a two-easy total of 47 points, three points ahead of Aguilar under the 25-22-20-18-4-3-15 scoring system. Aguilar dominated the morning race were Robinson and last visiting Kiwi Jack Nelson.

Jaki Jardin, dubbed as the best opponent in Aguilar, finished third with 46 points. The pride of Valenzuela City put up a good fight in the second semi-winner he wound up second to Robinson.

It was a big confidence booster for Robinson, who has already lost to Aguilar in the Cignal-sponsored series three times this year—twice in Talisay City in Negros Occidental and once in Iloilo City.

"Glenn is a good competitor and beating him right before a huge Filipino crowd waiting for him feels really good," said Robinson, a 23-year old native of Wellington, New Zealand, who rose to prominence by winning the overall title in the 2005 Asia-Pacific Championship.

What did Eggie tell Letty that made her laugh?

THE MAGAZINE recently honored Lolly Jimenez-Magsanoc (left), Inquirer's editor-in-chief, and Eugenia "Eggie" Apostol (right), founding chairperson, as two of Asia's heroes over the last 60 years. The magazine cited Apostol and Magsanoc for standing up against a dictatorship and launching the Inquirer with its unflinching brand of journalism.

Answer the question above and get a chance to win P400,000 in cash and appliances.

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2. Submit your entry to us on or before [illegible] via e-mail to ...
3. Deadline: [illegible] Winners will be announced ...
4. Send your entry with your name, age, address and telephone number to the following:
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   b. Postal: "Eggie at age 70 entry," c/o Marketing Division, PCI Bldg., Ortigas Avenue cor. Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
5. Promo period: [illegible]
6. Winners will be chosen by a panel of Inquirer editors, publishers and the Inquirer's Chairperson. Decision is final and cannot be disputed.
7. Winners must submit a valid ID ... and sign a Winner's Affidavit and Release Form before they can claim their prizes.
8. Prizes can be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Head Office. Prizes will be in the form of cheque and/or Gift Certificates.
9. Taxes will be paid by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
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TRAIL Blazers' Travis Outlaw (33) and LaMarcus Aldridge (12) put the squeeze on Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas in their game won by Cleveland.

# Nets trample Bucks

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—JASON KIDD SCORED A SEASON-HIGH 25 points to pick up the slack for an ailing Vince Carter on Wednesday, leading the New Jersey Nets to a 108-87 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Kidd added 11 assists and eight rebounds and scored 11 straight points for the Nets in a 11-3 first-quarter spurt that gave the Nets the lead for good.

Carter, who handled the Bucks' sympathetic all day and was a game-time decision to start, finished with 15 points, nine in the fourth quarter. Jason Kidd added 22 points.

Mo Williams had a season-high 26 points for Milwaukee, which was playing its consecutive nights. Michael Redd added 23 points for the Bucks, who were without leading rebounder Charlie Villanueva. He had an elbow on Tuesday night and was sent back home for further evaluation.

## Bobcats 95, Spurs 92, OT

At San Antonio, Adam Morrison scored 25 points, surpassing his career high established last night to outright outdo, as Charlotte beat San Antonio.

Emeka Okafor added 17 points for Charlotte (2-8), which had lost four straight. It was the first victory over the Spurs in Bobcats franchise history after four previous tries.

Morrison, a rookie from Gonzaga, scored 21 points Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

## Knicks 102, Wizards 82

At New York, rookie Renaldo Balkman scored a season-high 16 points, and New York used its best defensive performance of the season to beat Washington.

Quentin Richardson made his 3-pointers and added 17 points and Stephon Marbury scored 16 for the Knicks, who won for the first time this season at Madison Square Garden and snapped a three-game losing streak.

They didn't do an outstanding Jamison, smothering the league's highest-scoring team with the kind of defensive effort that had been missing all season. New York was allowing 108.8 points, second worst in the league, and hadn't held an opponent below 100 in any of its first eight games.

## Cavaliers 100, Trail Blazers 87

At Cleveland, LeBron James had 32 points, seven assists and seven rebounds to help Cleveland win its fourth straight home.

The Cavaliers have started the season 5-2 for the second straight year and won the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Drew Gooden scored 17 points and Eric Snow added a season-high 15 for Cleveland.

Zach Randolph led the Trail Blazers with 25 points and 11 rebounds, but struggled from the line, shooting 12-of-20 (60 percent). He entered the game shooting 89 percent.

## Magic 108, Nuggets 99

At Orlando, Florida, Keyon Dooling scored 25 points, hitting a big third-quarter run as Hi Orlando over Denver.

Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points, his 89th straight game with at least 20. But he committed Cora costly mistakes in the final 2:15, first travelling, then hitting a pass that forced a jump ball ripped to Dooling for a layup and 104-97 lead with 1:33 left. -AP

**Toronto Pacific**

Grizzlies 95, Jazzer 86. Cleveland 102, Portland 87. Boston 114, Atlanta 88. New Jersey 108, Milwaukee 87. 89 Toronto 92, Washington 87. 90 O. Oklahoma City 120, Detroit 99. Charlotte 95, San Antonio 92 (OT). Sacramento 116, Memphis 111. Philadelphia 90, Seattle 89.

# Federer 1st netter to earn $7M

SHANGHAI—ROGER FEDERER became the first player to win more than $7 million in one season at the Masters Cup this week and believes he is pulling away from his rivals in men's tennis.

The Swiss banked $1,250,000 with his season-ending win Sunday and remains 2nd counter for a third Masters Cup title, which would be his 12th tournament win of the season.

"I've had the best season of my career with all four grand slam finals, winning three, so I definitely feel like I've never played better tennis," said the Wimbledon, Australian and US Open champion.

"I guess we have to say right now I'm kind of going away from everybody. Because there was this moment maybe at Wimbledon or later on in the American summer where people thought (Rafael) Nadal is going to be really close, but he wasn't able to maintain his play.

"I'm hardly hit any matches in the last two seasons. For me, I don't know if I can keep it up another season, but definitely at the moment I've really gained a lot of confidence and (I'm) feeling physically also better than ever.

Reuters

NOODS

# Tiger just 2 shots down

MIYAZAKI, JAPAN— Tiger Woods began his quest for a third straight Dunlop Phoenix title with a solid 67 to finish the first round two shots off the lead Thursday.

The world number one made five birdies over the par-70 Phoenix Country Club course after starting on the back nine, but his exploits were overshadowed by a red-hot Shingo Katayama of Japan, who fanned the field after an opening 63.

Dropped shots at the 12th and seventh left Woods in a five-way tie for third with 2006 European Order of Merit winner Padraig Harrington and a trio of Japanese players.

Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano submitted a roller coaster round of 68 to claim sole second place.

Woods had to apologise to Katayama after almost hitting him with a drive while the Japanese player lined up a putt on the 354-yard 10th hole. Reuters

BMS Mathew Lambelet at the pommel horse yesterday. RAMON

# RP clinches 2nd in men's artistic

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINES SHINED with a dismal opening day performance and secured the silver medal in the men's artistic competition of the 12th Asian Schools Gymnastics Championship yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Kit Matthew Lambelet, finished with Lee Kwan, Cirello Catherman, Normann Abad and Jasper Abad delivered strong performances on the pommel horse and the floor exercise to edge the host country a second-best 303.450 points.

Thailand, dominating the rings and high bar, bagged the team gold with 164.800 points. Singapore took the bronze with 160.50.

Lambelet, an 19-year-old sophomore student from UE, claimed the bronze in the individual all-around artistic competition with a cumulative score of 52.4 points.

Agus Adi E of Indonesia ruled the highly fought event with 52.7 points, while Surjaco Chandrang of Thailand chalked up 52.7 for the silver.

"The consistency was there," said national gymnastics coach Jenny Ty. "Thailand is still the favourites to beat. But our junior gymnasts, this is just their first international exposure."

Lambelet, Kwan, Abad and Catherman severally finished in the top 10 in the individual rankings.

The Philippines claimed the top three berths in the floor exercise with Abad, 14, placing first with 8.5 points. Catherman scored 8.35 and Kwan 8.3.

CANADA crosses the end line held by Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez (left) and Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal.

# Canada tops Milo leg

LEGAZPI CITY—KEVIN CANADA won the Legazpi leg of the 2006 Milo National Marathon Thursday that started and ended in front of the Legazpi City Hall.

Running inside 2hrs, Canada dominated the 21K race right from the starting gun and left his rivals gasping for breath to clinch the P150,000 top purse and earn the right to represent Bikol for the second time in the Milo Marathon grand finals on Dec. 10.

Canada topped the Naga leg in 2004 but failed to figure prominently in the Finals.

This time Canada vowed to do his best to become the second Bicolano to win the premier footrace since Victor Mavis, a native of Camarines, did the trick in 1975.

Canada clocked 1:10:30, flipping runner-up second at 1:10:50 to pocket the P6,000 prize. Apon clocked in third in 1:11:50 worth P4,000.

Anna Liza Nagpe, the youngest of four siblings of a school coach, or from Tinambac, Camarines Sur, sailed the distaff side in 2:30:45. She also won P3,000.

Aileen Manas wound up second at 2:33.40.

# SPORTS


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# 10-month budget deficit at a low P56.3B

## Gov't can spend more than P200B in last 2 months of '06

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT INCURRED A BUDGET DEFICIT OF only P56.3 billion in the first 10 months of the year, bolstering expectations that the full-year budget gap would settle way below the P125-billion ceiling for 2006.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the deficit from January to October, which was less than half of the full-year deficit limit, made the Arroyo administration confident of keeping the deficit to between P105 billion and P115 billion for the entire year.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that the 10-month deficit resulted from the P793.7 billion worth of revenue collection and P851 billion worth of expenditures.

The deficit for the month of October was P5.8 billion.

The government's ability to stay on

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# BIR begins to review list of large taxpayers

## Revenue officials seek to address shortfall in unit's tax collection efforts

By Michelle V. Rosca

RAUL GALVEZ

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE has begun its review of the list of "large taxpayers" to find out why the revenue agency's Large Taxpayers Investor (LTE) unit has been falling short of its collection target.

"The LTE has always failed to meet its target, and we want to find out why," BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buting told reporters. "Maybe we should remove half of (the companies on the list of large taxpayers) and add really big taxpayers."

LTE is a BIR division in charge of collecting taxes from so-called large taxpayers. The division is expected to collect P206.3 billion this year—53 percent of the BIR's total tax collection target of P675.4 billion.

Currently, 1,089 companies are on the list of large taxpayers. Buting noted that the number had been reduced from the 1,300 listed some years back, explaining that some firms had merged with others or were dissolved in the course of time.

Large taxpayers, unlike regular corporate taxpayers, are required to pay taxes directly to the BIR's national office in Quezon City for close monitoring and are obliged to use the BIR's electronic filing and payment system.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), a large taxpayer is one whose net worth is at least P300 million, pays an annual and withholding tax of at least P1 million, pays value-added tax of at least P100,000 for any quarter, and has paid P1 million in excise tax during the preceding taxable year.

Buting said the ongoing review might lead the BIR to recommend other changes in the composition of the list of large taxpayers, or


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# Big firms take part in agri initiative

By Christine A. Gaylican

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST manufacturing companies have banded together to improve agriculture practices for the food food industry.

The First Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform Philippine Convention was held yesterday to engage food manufacturing companies, led by Nestle Wood Philippines Inc. and Unilever Inc., to take a more pro-active role in improving agricultural production systems for particular commodities used for their products, according to SAI Europe representative Patricia Lehenge.

"This is a unique opportunity for the private sector to push for more sustainable farming practices for domestic food security," Lehenge said during a briefing yesterday.

He said that the SAI in Europe has pushed for the proper implementation of sustainable agricultural programs with the resulting economic and environmental benefits for local communities.

Lehenge pointed out that the initiative would benefit companies that that are engaged in the global trade of commodities such as coffee, sugarcane, fruit products (bananas, mangoes and bananas), coconut, palm oil and cereals.

"These commodities have been subjected to erratic price movements because of tight supply situation," Lehenge said.

As one of the first companies to implement sustainable agriculture, Nestle Philippines agribusiness manager Joel Lumagbas said that they have taken this initiative in order to ensure a steady supply of cocoa beans for their food production.

Lumagbas said that part of the sustainable agricultural practices that the company started is the free training for farmer-growers on the efficient production of higher quality cocoa beans, which the company will buy in time.

"This will ensure the farmers' income and availability of quality raw materials," he added.

According to Bruno Ellerbrock, Nestle's business development manager for coffee business, the company has benefited from the endeavor and is now urging other manufacturing companies to implement these good agricultural practices.

Other food companies that joined the SAI include San Miguel Foods Corp., Kraft Philippines Inc., Dole Philippines and Figaro Coffee Co.


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# Export of coco products still up

By Rovzel N. Domingo

EXPORT VOLUMES OF MAJOR COCONUT-based products have been sliding for the third straight month ending in August, widening the large gaps registered in the first five months of the year.

But from January to August, exporters of coconut products still managed to post an increase of 10.1 percent, according to a preliminary industry report.

The United Coconut Associations of the Philippines said coconut exports of four major products in the eight-month period reached 1,419,694 metric tons in copra equivalent, rising from 1,288,187 in the same period last year, up-to-date.

Volumes rose for all four products with coconut oil—used in making food-related products, personal care products and fuel, like biodiesel—increasing 11.8 percent to 730,202 MT.

Trade of copra meal, which is used as animal products for animal feeds, rose 5.9 percent to 376,056 MT.

Sales of desiccated or dehydrated coconut—used mainly in making cakes, desserts and confectionery—increased 1.8 percent to 84,413 MT.

Shipments of oleochemicals that are used in the production of detergents, cosmetics and plastics, as well as latter or additives for food, medicines, plastic, rubber and textiles, rose 2.2 percent to 84,930 MT.

Also, foreign data showed that growth in volume was maintained despite the continued downturn from June to August for all four major products. The rate of growth for the month has dipped 1.9 percent to about 163,000 MT.

In August, coconut oil shipments dropped 15 percent to 89,451 MT; copra meal, by 50 percent to 38,230 MT; desiccated coconut, by 0.9 percent to 9,166 MT; and oleochemicals, by 63.2 percent to 7,820 MT.

Still, Unap said the August trend represented an improvement of 22.2 over July shipments, which reached a total of about 123,600 MT.

Also in August, bulk of coconut oil exports were sent to European markets, which took in 44,000 MT, or half of the total volume.

The United States, which ranks as the destination for coconut oil shipments in the previous three months, imported 34,050 MT or 39 percent of the total.

Other major buyers were South Korea with 8,500 MT, and Japan with 6,000 MT.


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# Rewards come in kind for able tax collectors

UNDER PRESIDENTIAL TAX COLLECTORS OF the Bureau of Internal Revenue may not expect to collect cash rewards, as originally intended under the Internal Revenue laws.

They are, however, entitled to rewards in kind, such as additional computers for their workstations and books for their office libraries.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buting clarified that tax collectors from a BIR regional or district office would only get monetary rewards if the entire revenue agency got to meet its tax collection goal.

If the BIR falls short of its target, while a district office manages to exceed its collection goal, then the district office would be given non-monetary incentives.

The BIR is tasked to collect P675.4 billion for this year. The revenue agency, however, is seen to be falling short of its target, as it has only managed to P322.8 billion in the first 10 months of the year.

Once forthcoming BIR employees are not happy to hear that no monetary reward awaits them for their efforts.

Earlier, a head of one the BIR's regional offices said he and his colleagues would ask Congress to clarify the guidelines for the granting of monetary rewards under the current revenue law.

The official said that the BIR personnel were ready, or promised to be given incentives, as long as their respective offices meet the collection targets.

Under the Internal Revenue law, monetary rewards equivalent to 1/4 percent of the excess collection would be given if the targets are met. But this percentage is pegged on the base (BIR) agency), that monetary incentives would be given if the entire agency hits its full year goal.

The law also states that revenue personnel who still fall short by at least 7.5 percent of their individual targets could either be demoted, assigned another task, or dismissed from service.

"Rewards are targeted to be given to the individual collectors, who assume risks when they go after tax delinquents," the BIR official said. Michelle V. Rosca

# BIR begins . . .

From page B2

making the criteria for determining large taxpayers more flexible.

He added that the agency would also consider other circumstances, such as reasoning down the tax collection target required in the LTS, or adding more persons to the database.

"We can't squeeze so much blood from this select group of taxpayers," Buhay said.

From January to July, the LTS managed to collect P189.207 billion, reflecting a 9.7-percent shortfall from the seven-month target of P198.047 billion.

The BIR has already reported its tax collection for the first 10 months of the year, but the revenue agency still has to release the specific collection figures of the LTS for the January to October period.

The BIR is likewise having a difficult time meeting its total tax collection target.

The revenue agency only managed to collect P522.8 billion in the first 10 months of the year.

This means that it will has to collect P145.8 billion in the remaining two months of this year to meet its P671.4-billion goal for the full year.

Changing the composition of the list of large taxpayers is expected to help the BIR improve its revenue collection performance.

The revenue agency is closely monitoring and evaluating the accuracy of the remittances from the group of taxpayers.

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# SHALL THE TRUTH REMAIN ELUSIVE, GENERAL?

**Can you look at every Filipino straight in the eye and tell him that he has heard the truth from you on the motives behind the violent take over of the Poro Point seaport last August 5, 2006 ?**

**You declared:**

"What I merely did ... is to request the Philippine Ports Authority for assistance ... that is **my duty**. What is wrong with that?" Abaya added.

[The Philippine Star, page B-8, Saturday, October 7, 2006]

**Your "duty" to whom, General?**

"... several directors in the BCDA's nine-member board disagreed with Abaya's decision to have the PPA run the port and get PPIC out in the meantime...

***Basta inoperate na lang ni Abaya*** (Abaya unilaterally took actions to operate it)" the source said, citing the view of some directors.

Asked if the BCDA had issued a resolution allowing the PPA to operate the seaport and agreeing that the cease-and-desist order (CDO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources warranted the take over, **Abaya replied no**.

He said a resolution was not needed ..."

[Philippine Daily Inquirer, page A16, August 17, 2006]

**A lawful "duty", General?**

"Region 1 Environment Management Bureau (EMB) Director **Joel Salvador** of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday denied conniving with the Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), in connection with the port controversy at Poro Point.

"Hence, if what PPMC and PPA did was to enforce the CDO by taking over the Port, **it is absolutely without our approval and consent**. We shall not explain their actions or give validity to it. **They are to account for their actions**. These companies were **not deputized to enforce the CDO**," he (Salvador) said."

[Manila Bulletin, page 9, November 10, 2006]

**Let's hear it again, General:**
**Whose "duty" was it and to whom was that "duty" owed?**

**This above all; to thine own self be true.**
- William Shakespeare "Hamlet"

**Poro Point Industrial Corporation**
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BCDA exec's barring ...

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MANILA BULLETIN

Friday, November 10, 2006

Region 1 Environment Management Bureau (EMB) Director Joel Salvador of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday denied conniving with the Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), in connection with the port controversy at Poro Point.

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# Travelers' expenses in RP up

## Visa cardholders spent ₱37.5B in '05

By Abigail L. Ho

TRAVELERS SPENT 29 PERCENT MORE money in the Philippines last year, according to a report by Visa.

Visa also said its international cardholders spent P37.5 billion in the Philippines last year, up from P29 billion in 2004.

James Dixon, Visa country manager for the Philippines, said Visa accounted for 32.8 percent of total credit card transactions by international travelers in the first half of last year.

He noted that Visa's share of the international spending pie was bigger than that of all other card companies.

While many investors still paid for goods and services using cash or travelers' checks, he said more were turning to credit cards.

"More people are now using electronic payment. And it's not just in Metro Manila that we're seeing an increase in credit card use. We're also seeing an increase in resorts destinations, even the provinces, all over the country," he said in a briefing yesterday.

Among all foreign visitors, cardholders from the United States accounted for the bulk, or 44 percent, of all transactions registered last year.

Those transactions amounted to P65.4 billion.

Other big spending tourists include those from the United Kingdom (P3.4 billion) and Japan (P2.8 billion).

Together with South Korea and Australia, the top five Visa card users accounted for 71 percent of total Visa spend in the country in 2005, the report said.

# NWRB to cut water supply from Angat

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD will push through with its plan to reduce water supply from Angat Dam this month despite the increasing water elevation.

The water supply cutback will mean lower volume of water to Metro Manila, Nasul and parts of Cavite.

Less water pressure would be experienced by some 50,000 households served by Manila Water Company Inc. in the east zone and 156,868 households under the concession area of Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Those households covered by Maynilad are in E1 (Barangays in Quezon City, Caloocan, Commonwealth, Kaunlaran, Novaliches, Mindanao, Quirino, Small Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas; towns of Tanza, Sta. Cruz, Santolan, Small Manila, Shoe Mahal, Paranaque and Cavite City Pilot.

The NWRB, chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said it has decided to give priority to irrigation of farmland.

"We cannot defer the cutback because we have to save water for irrigation until March," NWRB executive director Ramon B. Aldaya told the farmers in an interview.

He explained that additional water from the recent typhoons are not enough because the Angat Dam's water elevation would be kept at the ideal 190 meters elevation.


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Bringing out the BEST in you

# Ecozones exports up 12.8% in 9 months

By Rainier W. Dorotheo

THE COMBINED ECONOMIC ZONE posted a 12.8-percent increase in export earnings in the first nine months of the year to $28.4 billion from $25.4 billion in the same period last year, according to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Peza said the four public services-cigarette a total of $6 billion during the nine-month period, up by 3.6 percent from $5.3 billion in the same period last year.

Ramon Guy Tuvera, Peza director-general, said the total value of goods, the Cavite Economic Zone, $1.6 billion; the Mactan Economic Zone, $1.3 billion, and the Subic Bay Economic Zone, $679.5 million.

The Baguio economic zone, with 28.6 percent growth rate in the nine-month period, $127 million; Laguna Technopark Inc., $1.2 billion; Bataan Technology Park Inc., $1.5 billion; Carmelray Industrial Park I, $1.2 billion, and Leyte Industrial Development Estate, $1.1 billion.

Among the top five performers, Leyte Industrial performed the best with a 85.6-percent growth while Laguna Technopark posted a 51-percent improvement.

Information technology parks and buildings, numbering at least 22—grew the biggest as they earned a total of $467.7 million in earnings or an increase of 124.3 percent from $208.4 million.

The top five IT buildings and parks in the nine-month period were: Eastwood City Cyber Park at $137 million; RCBC Plaza, $101.1 million; PBCom Tower, $78.9 million; IBM Center at $35.7 million, and Huelegem Cyber Zone, $16.6 million.

Last week, the Department of Trade and Industry reported that the total amount of investments registered with the Board of Investments and Peza were up 50.7 percent to P239.88 billion in the 10 months to October.

Of the total, Peza-listed projects accounted for P65.5 billion or 62.4 higher than the P40.7 worth of investments approved from January to October in 2005.

THE SELARI VILLAGE ASSOCIATION has postponed to Dec. 13 the referendum on the proposed 20-year extension of the homeowners' deed of restrictions.

The referendum was scheduled for tomorrow, but Boni precinct 1 Barangay Executive admitted that lack of quorum among Bel-Air's 900 homeowners had prompted the postponement.

Notes of the delay stated Lawyer Isabelo Antonio Nicely Diplomat, former Blue Ribbon Consul Aurora Hyatt, and architect Hilario Palafox Jr., who now have more time to secure proxies of fellow residents opposed to the 22-year extension of the deed of restrictions.

According to Palafox, the real estate values in Bel-Air would shoot up from the present P50,000 square meter to "easily P60,000 sqm"— in contrast, before average valuation now hovers around P40,000 sqm—if the single-house per lot restriction is allowed to lapse.

A Makati City Hall urban planning consultant, Rejalyn cited Bel-Air should now allow four-five story residential townhouses within the village, given to proximity to Rockwell and Ayala Alabang.

The proposal has been endorsed by real estate professor Danilo Antonio of the Ateneo Institute of Management, who opined that Bel-Air's land use and utilization are underutilized, given the booming shortage in Makati's central business district.

On the other hand, Bora and those who prefer to keep the single-dwelling limit would like to maintain the low-density character of the 76.7-hectare village, as had been envisioned in its 1957 charter.

"Don't these people know that with the money that they can make in this the 'when the single-dwelling convention shall have been lifted', they can move up to Dasmariñas and even Tarlac?" Bolante asked.

According to the grapevine, the Diplomat group is also exploring the possibility of an alliance with Rockwell to align Bel-Air's future development, traffic, security, and garbage plans with that of its upscale neighbor.

**Brick condo sales**

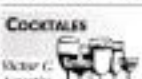
THE ORANGE LA/ELOS GROUP threw an "Early Merry Christmas" cocktails Wednesday to celebrate the first tower of The St. Francis having been "almost sold out," as well as the sales launch of its twin tower.

Towering at 46 stories, St. Francis would become the country's tallest building when the first tower is completed in 2009. Over at the Fort, The Icon even put up a billboard with a congressional district, "We are running out of stories to sell," for its luxury project overlooking the Manila Golf Intrawa.

"Except for a handful of units, we are almost sold out," said Bel. In attendance, president of Soil Property Ventures, the developers of The Icon.

Makati real Xiell principals Gerardo Lanuza, Jaime Baron Jr., Wilmo Sr. Alfred Xavier Burgos Jr., and Ramon Ey are so encouraged by the sales performance that the group is now seriously considering plans to start a second tower.

## Bel-Air's happy problem




**Money-go-round**

- HSBC Philippines CEO Wilmer Wanning has resigned as vice-president director of A. Soriano Corp., preparatory to his being reassigned to another country in account.
- IBM's 300G of Accenture is to say that country's what was reported here on Nov. 6, he has no investment whatsoever in a problematic Xiamen condo project of architect Gilbert Yu.

**Heard through the grapevine**

FORMER Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez, Jr. late another headache coming in the person of former PSCC president Louis Ignacio, who lost in his bid to oust you questioning the P6 billion acquisition reached by Dominguez's company with Philippine National Construction Corp.

(Email: cocktails@philstar.net)

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| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Investment | Current Value (Nov. 15, 2006) | Last Week (Nov. 07, 2006) |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.08020 | 1.08019 |
| Global Bond - Peso | 1.73894 | 1.73833 |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 1.62207 | 1.61333 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.5098 | 1.5083 |

# Shell profit up 6% at P3.8B

By Abigail L. Ho

THE REFINER PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. registered a 6-percent jump in after-tax profits during the first nine months to P3.8 billion from P3.6 billion a year ago.

In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing, the company said distributable net income surged to P2.3 billion from only P879 million the previous year due to higher sales volume, lower operating expenses and lower foreign exchange losses.

Sales volume in the July-September period rose to 3.42 billion liters from last year's 1.29 billion liters.

However, in the first three quarters, sales volume dropped to 4.29 billion liters from 4.71 billion liters in the same period a year ago, as petron was completed, was inaugurated, and power plants shifted to less expensive fuels such as hydro and geothermal.

Shell's market share as of mid-September stands at 30.9 percent, from 32 percent, reflecting faster drop in dealer connection to domestic sales.

While the local industry contracted by 9 percent from January to September, Shell's total oil related volume suffered a decline of 12.2 percent.

The oil firm was able to offset declining volumes by reducing operating expenses to P5.6 billion as of end-September from P6.6 billion in the same period a year ago.

This was due to lower refinery and supply costs, product hauling expense and supply fees, Shell said.

Financing costs likewise dropped 61 percent to just P200 million in the January-September period from P1.3 billion as the peso gained strength, resulting in foreign exchange gains on supplier's credit.

In an earlier interview, Shell country chair Edgar Chua said the oil firm hoped to match its 2005 after-tax net income of P5.7 billion.

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# SMC 9-month profit up 18%

## Pancake House net income jumps 67%

CASUAL DINING CHAIN PANCAKE HOUSE Inc. said its net income rose by 67 percent to P33.1 million in the first nine months from P19.8 million in the corresponding last year.

The amount reflected earnings attributable to parent equity holders—or income from companies controlled by Pancake House.

Including earnings from minority interests—in companies where Pancake is a minor shareholder, net income grew 91 percent to P34.64 million in the nine-month period from P18.1 million in the same period last year.

In a financial report submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pancake said its nine-month profit was bolstered by "Pancake House," its flagship restaurant, which booked profit of P23.8 million. The amount was, however, lower than the P28.4 million posted in the same period last year.

The company said the decline in profit was due to the increase in interest expenses on debts.

Aside from Pancake House, the group also operates bar and grill chain Dencio's and Japanese fast food chain Tokyo Boy.

Dencio's restaurant in Greenhills, said income rose slower by at much as 66 percent to P2 million in the nine-month period from P14.6 million last year.

Tokyo Boy pitched in P3.4 million in profit during the nine-month period, an improvement from the P3.1 million it booked in the last quarter of 2005.

Consolidated revenue grew 48 percent to P991.7 million in January to September this year from P627.4 million last year. Of the amount, restaurant sales accounted for the bulk of P681.3 million, up by 119 percent from P31.2.7 million.

Commissary sales rose by 49 percent to P249.9 million in the first nine months from P167.2 million in the same period last year.

Total revenue from Pancake House restaurants increased 35.4 percent to P434.5 million in the nine months ending September '06, from P307.7 million.

In the meantime, Dencio's posted a 88 percent increase in revenue to P253.4 million, from P186.1 million last year. Its turnaround was propelled by the opening of new outlets and the growth in franchising income.

Tokyo Boy generated P115.6 million in revenue for the nine-month period.

The company is expecting revenue to remain strong as it intends to open more outlets before the end of the year. As of end September, the company has 25 outlets. This will be increased to 27 by the end of the year. Elizabeth L. Aurelio

## Healthy beer operations, strong sales by Australia unit boost performance

By Elizabeth L. Aurelio

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT SAN MIGUEL Corp. said its nine-month net income grew 18 percent to P6.17 billion from P5.22 billion in the same period last year, boosted by the company's healthy local and international beer operations and strong sales by Australian unit National Foods Ltd.

Income computations, based on previous financial reports submitted to SMC to the Philippine Stock Exchange, showed that the conglomerate's third quarter income reached P1.69 billion, up 21.6 percent from P1.39 billion in the same period last year. The amount included earnings booked by both parent equity holders and minority investors.

The same computation showed that based on earnings posted by parent equity alone—or income from companies where SMC holds a controlling stake—third quarter net income grew 26 percent to P1.4 billion.

Net income in the first half of the year was P4.48 billion, inclusive of profits posted by both equity holders and minority investors. Excluding minority interests, net income in the first half was P4.26 billion.

In a disclosure to the PSE, the food and beverage conglomerate consolidated net sales revenue in the nine months to September grew 14 percent to P383 billion from P336.1 billion in the same period last year.

Consolidated operating income also rose 25 percent to P54.7 billion as cost saving programs softened the impact of rising costs.

San Miguel Corp.'s nine-month operating income in its domestic operations amounted to P51.79 billion, up 13 percent from last year's P5.39 billion, with the business benefiting from cost efficiency programs.

SMC said in an investor's briefing presentation that price adjustments brought into effect in part with last year's level at P20 billion.

The combined National Foods and joint maker Bert Ltd. generated sales revenue of A$1.3.34 billion and contributed operating income of A$180 million. These were both 6 percent higher than a year ago levels.

SMC's consumer food business operations posted a 9-percent improvement in sales volume and 1 percent in revenue to P217.9 million in the first nine months of the year. This was attributed to volume export operations and earnings aided by Creamy Delite.

Liquor unit Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) posted a 2-percent growth in revenue to P9.26 billion in the first nine months from P9.07 billion in the same period last year following the launch of new products, particularly Brandy and GSM Blue.

GSMI's operating income fell 22 percent to P768 million from P1.03 billion in the same period last year. Its net income was also down 29 percent to P366 million in the first nine months from P509 million in the same period last year.

The San Miguel Food Group's consolidated sales revenue in the nine months to September grew 8 percent to P68.1 billion from P63.1 billion, with the three main business units "showing positive revenue growth and better prices across most of its businesses."

The operating income of the food group climbed 2 percent to P1.32 billion in the nine-month period from P1.3 billion last year.

The packaging group, however, registered a 6-percent drop in sales revenue to P9.4 billion in the first nine months from P10.12 billion last year "on lower internal requirements," the company said in its presentation to investors. Its operating income also fell 34 percent to P1.38 billion.

**RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.** Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. (right) welcomes Eckhard Gnodtke, Deutsche Bundesbank director, at the start of the three-day joint BSP-Deutsche Bundesbank conference on risk management. The conference, held on Nov. 9-10, 2006, brought together experts who shared their expertise on risk management and local bankers involved in implementing risk reforms in the industry. With the BSP Governor and the Deutsche Bundesbank executive are (3rd and 4th from right) BSP Deputy Governor Nestor A. Espenilla Jr. and German chargé d'affaires Ralf Sailgnan.

## Stock market up 0.97%

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.97 percent higher on renewed interest in selective stocks, which had been hit earlier by profit-taking, dealers said.

They said expectations of more solid corporate earnings in the last quarter of the year and the government's improving fiscal performance also aided investment.

The composite index added 27.39 points to close at 2,810.39 having traded between 2,796.20 and 2,829.21.

The broader all-share index rose 16.13 points to 1,743.39.

Gainers beat losers 83 to 48 with 26 stocks unchanged. A total of 6.07 billion shares changed hands worth P3.1 billion.

The peso traded at an average of 50.14 to the dollar.

"Given its underlying strength, the market managed to recover from recent falls and returned to the 2,800 level," Rosanel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities said.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) rose P60 to P2,445.

PLDT shares had fallen by about 6.8 percent in the last three days after it hit record highs last week.

Rival Globe Telecom also recovered from a three-day slide, advancing P20 to P1,079. AFP

## 10-month budget deficit at a low P56.3B

From page B-1

much of its fiscal surplus was enough for bringing back investor confidence in the Philippines. All in the country recently got an improved credit outlook from major credit rating firms, the government is now hoping the Philippines could have its credit ratings upgraded soon.

Town reiterated the government's commitment to balance the government's budget by the end of 2008.

The lower-than-expected deficit as of October, however, was largely due to underspending.

Exports by P932 billion worth of expenditures as of the first 10 months and revenue generation month, the government still has room to spend anywhere between P227.1 billion and 237.3 billion in the remaining one-and-a-half months of the year just to meet loosely committed full-year budget deficit of P181 billion to P115 billion.

"It is obvious that the government has room to spend more in the remaining months of the year. What we have is a happy problem," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. told reporters in a briefing attended by fiscal undersecretaries yesterday.

Andaya noted that the problem of spending less than programmed was preferable than overspending. Nevertheless, he, too, admits said the budget department would work on boosting spending in the last two months of the year to meet the programmed expenditure and avoid remaining economic growth.

He said the budget department would use fully the P46.9 billion worth of supplemental budget recently approved by Congress for various operations and capital expenditures.

On the revenue side, the P795.7 billion worth of collection as of the first 10 months was on track to meet its full-year target of P196 billion. On the other hand, the BIR was still struggling to meet its P675.4 billion full-year tax collection target.

The fall still has to generate P342.5 billion in the last two months of the year to meet its target for 2006.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said that the shortfall of the BIR was partly a natural consequence of the declining interest rate and the government's dwindling borrowing requirements because of the improving fiscal situation.

| | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (P34.0) | (P8.2) |
| Revenues | 827.3 | 795.7 |
| Tax | 683.2 | 675.4 |
| Non-Tax | 144.1 | 120.3 |
| Bank Cash | 59.8 | 47.5 |
| Expenditures | 796.6 | 803.9 |
| Cash | 756.7 | 787.4 |
| Bank Cash | 39.9 | 16.5 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (P34.0) | (P8.2) | (P25.8) | 31.5 |
| | 827.3 | 795.7 | 31.6 | 96.1 |
| | 683.2 | 675.4 | 7.8 | 98.9 |
| | 144.1 | 120.3 | 23.8 | 83.5 |
| | 59.8 | 47.5 | 12.3 | 79.4 |
| | 796.6 | 803.9 | (7.3) | 100.9 |
| | 756.7 | 787.4 | (30.7) | 104.1 |
| | 39.9 | 16.5 | 23.4 | 41.3 |

## DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Ayala Land Inc.** has approved the declaration of a regular cash dividend of P0.83 per share for all stockholders of record as of Dec. 14, payable on Jan. 4, 2007. It has also approved the declaration of a special cash dividend of P0.11 per share for stockholders of record as of Dec. 7, payable on Dec. 19.

***

**WINDING G. Mantong** has tendered his resignation as independent director of **K. Gothong Hold.**, effective Dec. 1.

***

PEDRO T. Pinpin, Miguel A. Gaisano, Carlos N. Hendrix, Lawrence G. Tyquiin, Ramon A. Peralta Jr., Wilfredo A. Paras, Daniel C. Razon, Jovencio V. Bautista and Francisco F. del Rosario have been elected to the board of **GSIS Group Corp.**

***

THE BOARD of **Bank of the Philippine Islands** has declared a cash dividend of P0.90 per share, payable to stockholders of record as of the 30th day from BPI's receipt of the Bangko Sentral's approval.

***

**PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.** has disclosed the disposal of 100 shares by first vice president Gilberto B. Sicuia for P2,509 each on Nov. 13. Completed By Katherine Jo-Anne Panaligan

# PSALM to turn over power facilities to First Gen today

## Lopez firm posts $2.58-M performance bond for Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower complex

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) and First Gen Hydro Power Corp. have completed all the necessary closing documents for the sale of the 132-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower complex, paving the way for the remittance by the Lopez-led firm of the 40-percent downpayment for the power facilities.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM said it had submitted all the closing documents to winning bidder First Gen Hydro, which would be followed by the turnover of the assets to First Gen Hydro today.

First Gen Hydro, for its part, had posted a $2.58-million performance bond for the assets and submitted to PSALM six months of financial and other documentary requirements.

The bond, equivalent to 2 percent of the $129-million purchase price, would remain that way until the Department of Energy (DOE) would issue a certificate of compliance to the winning bidder, which would attest to the latter's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Energy Conversion Agreement (ECA) for the power facilities.

The ECA is the power purchase agreement between the National Power Corp. and the winning bidder for the power facilities.

Once the DOE issues the certificate of compliance, PSALM would then issue a certificate of turnover to First Gen Hydro, which would be followed by the transfer of the assets to First Gen Hydro today.

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The ECA is the power purchase agreement between the National Power Corp. and the winning bidder for the power facilities.

PSALM earlier secured the consent of major National Power Corp. lenders—Asian Development Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and World Bank—to do an open-bid privatization of the Napocor-owned plants to the new owner.

"The turnover of the Pantabangan-Masiway hydroelectric power plant complex to First Gen Hydro marks another milestone in the ongoing privatization efforts of the government in line with the restructuring and privatization of the country's electric power industry," PSALM president Nicasio Conti said.

Under the asset purchase agreement, First Gen Hydro needs to remit the 40-percent downpayment to PSALM on or before the closing date, or when both parties have satisfied all conditions for the transaction.

The balance is payable in 14 equal semi-annual installments with a 12-percent interest compounded semi-annually.

The $2.58-million performance bond will be reduced every year by 2 percent of the aggregate amount of the deferred payments.

First Gen Hydro is likewise required to post a deferred payment security deposit equivalent to at least the next deferred payment in the form of cash, currently dated manager's check or an irrevocable standby letter of credit acceptable to PSALM.

PSALM said the seven completion and submission of all closing documents was allowed it to seek from First Gen Hydro the remittance of the 40-percent downpayment for the power package.

The Pantabangan-Masiway plants are the biggest Napocor generation assets that PSALM has sold to date. The government has a new power-up for the auction of the 360-MW Magat hydropower facility before year's end.

# Honey for health and money

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

FARMERS MUST NOT ONLY produce food for the nation. They must produce healthy food and at the same time, make enough money for their survival and growth. It was in this spirit that ten price satisfies were welcomed by a magnet for sickness Rhs. 271, and Columnist to fight anxiety (Rhs 5). One healthy solution that would also be profitable would be for Filipino consumers to take honey or calamansi juice known as limonada) in a glass of water to improve their health by increasing alkalini- ty to combat the much acidity.

He received several calls suggesting that honey be added to this combination for health and money.

### Healthy honey

Bob Morris of the Pangasinan State University wrote about honey's health benefits: "Honey has been used medicinally for at least 3000 years. Aristotle exclaimed to 'pale honey being "good as salve for sore eyes and wounds"'—but it is only recently that its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties have been fully documented). Research also shows that drinking four tablespoons of honey mixed in a glass of water improves blood antioxidant status which help prevent clogging of arteries.

He adds: "Honey can also be used to treat burns and gastric ulcers, wounds and other infections. Honey has other medicinal values in that some chemicals when it is consumed with lemon and hot water... it cures athlete's foot and other fungus problems... it is generally accepted as a expectorant therapeutic agent."

Dr. Glen Bernardo, coordinator of the DP Lee Bahar Bee Program, confirmed the health benefits of honey in an interview said in this week. Aside from preserving the growth of bacteria, honey is an energizer that improves blood circulation. In addition, unlike the sucrose in sugar which does not metabolize easily, honey has only 5 percent sucrose. The remaining 95 percent is made up of fructose and glucose, which are rapidly processed by the body and does not contribute to further weight and fat problems.

### A sweet breakthrough

Dr. Bernardo was even more enthusiastic about the economic benefits of honey. She said that a Philippine honey breakthrough occurred last April. They discovered that stingless bees (trigona species) could be easily bred and managed in large numbers at very low cost. Because of the pollination made possible by these bees in mango plantations, the fruit yield increased by 60 percent. And since these bees were stingless, they posed no danger to the people.

From his independent research on the benefits of bee pollination, Antonio Bacusmo wrote: "Studies conducted locally and abroad showed that honeybee pollination increases crop yield by up to 40 percent. Cereal crops like corn, and plants such as banana, mango, coconut, coffee, cacao, citrus, papaya, mango, tomato and eggplants are favorites of honeybees. A marked increase in yield can be expected when these plants are pollinated by honeybees."

### COMMENTARY Bee business

Economic benefit accrues not only because of the increased farm yield but also from the bee-farmers itself. Researches cites studies done by the Philippine Coconut Authority that shows the desirability of growing bees under coconut trees. He states: "A coconut farmer can earn an additional income of P100,000.00 per hectare from his honey, pollen, royal jelly and wax."

On a smaller scale, the Department of Science and Technology showed the results of honeybee culture in the forest town in the Cordillera. Proving that one can start a honeybee business with limited capital, the DOST provided the following costs and returns table. (See table below.)

### How to start

Since honey is good for both health and money, how does one start this business? Dr. Serrano is the founding member of the Beekeepers Network, Phils. Foundation Inc., which has more than 500 members distributed in every province. When I asked her if there would be at least one member in every province to help a person interested in this business, she unhesitatingly said: "Of course. Our members are good people. To enter a business dealing with bees which have a nasty reputation, one has to be patient and good natured. That is why our members are naturally inclined to help others."

Two thousand years ago, the wise King Solomon said: "My son, eat (bee) honey because it is good, and honeycomb which is sweet to thy taste." Even before this, the Lord told Moses to lead the Israelites to a "land flowing with milk and honey."

Imported honey is usually processed and therefore does not contain the beneficial qualities of our natural honey, which is also far more delicious. Consequently, Dr. Serrano says that demand far exceeds supply. Honey is therefore very profitable. If you wish to contribute to our land flowing with more honey for health and money, please call or text Dr. Serrano at 09 19 328 7930. For a world perspective on honey, visit this website: www.beesfordevelopment.org.

*Ubabot* is Agriculture Undersecretary. For inquiries and suggestions, email agribusinessphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 832-223 (2).

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# Messages

Congratulations to I-Remit Inc. for reaching its 5th anniversary!

In recent years, the remittance industry has remarkably grown owing to the upsurge in remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). As users, this development presented a challenge to the thriving remittance business, mainly in the form of ensuring the delivery of efficient, convenient and reliable services and the promotion of sound business practices.

I-Remit Inc., with its extensive reach and effective utilization of the most advanced information and communication technology tools, has positively responded to this challenge and continues to be at the forefront of revolutionizing the remittance business. I commend you for your vision and commitment.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recognizes the important role of the remittance industry in catering to the financial requirements of the ordinary Filipino citizen. Your services complement banks and other financial institutions in providing quality financial products and services to the public. This being so, you play a vital role in the promotion of ethical practices that will generate greater confidence and trust of the general public whom you serve.

It is our hope that I-Remit Inc. will remain true to its vision of promoting efficiency and competitiveness in the remittance industry to make it even more responsive to the needs of the public, particularly our OFWs.

Happy anniversary! I wish you more rewarding years ahead.

AMANDO TETANGCO, JR
Governor
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

On behalf of the Social Security System, I would like to congratulate iRemit on the occasion of its 5th Anniversary celebration.

Since 2001, iRemit, through its tie-up arrangement with iBank, and currently with Eastwest Bank, has been one of SSS' reliable partners in bringing its services closer to its members, particularly the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Through iRemit's network in Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, and North America, SSS contributions and loan payments of our OFW members are remitted to us safely, accurately, and on time.

In return for our OFW members enabling support and continued availability, we promise to be true to our mission of providing meaningful social security protection to them and their loved ones.

Umaasa kayo na ang SSS at ang mga kolektong agencies nito tulad ng iRemit ay patuloy na magtitinguhan para sa kapakinabangan ang mga mga kababayang OFW nitong coberan pa at mabuhay tayong lahat!

CORAZON L. DE LA PAZ-BERSAMIN
President & CEO
Social Security System

Congratulations to iRemit Incorporated on its 5th Anniversary.

The Pag-IBIG Fund is honored to join the congratulant's roster of partners with the recent signing of an agreement covering remittance and loan payments of our members under the Pag-IBIG Overseas Program or POP. This only shows the confidence we have in your organization.

Our partnership, while still in its infancy, will definitely be beneficial to Pag-IBIG members abroad as iRemit provides OFWs a safe and reliable way of paying their contributions to the Pag-IBIG Fund.

May the year usher in more growth and challenges for iRemit as it continues to work towards strengthening its place in the industry.

More power to iRemit Incorporated.

ATTY. RAMON T. CLUDIO
President & Chief Executive Officer
Pag-IBIG Fund

# Fast, reliable and secure remittance products

IREMIT OFFERS A RANGE OF fast, reliable and secure remittance services that fit every need of the global Filipino.

Bank-to-bank remittances involve sending remittances to other bank accounts in the Philippines. This is reliable secure – plied through various technological and financial platforms for online and same-day credit of accounts. For bank-to-bank remittances, a customer can have same-day feedback on the remittances and in the same time, the service has no hidden charges.

iRemit's door-to-door cash delivery is always on time and is guaranteed to arrive in the customer's doorstep within 24 hours. iRemit's provincial remittances are also completed in efficiency of delivery. All these are made possible with iRemit's in-house messengers and couriers and their access to the mirror site to update delivery status. This ensures frequency of follow-up from customers. In terms of reach, iRemit boasts of the widest coverage, reaching more beneficiaries in the Philippines than any other remittance company.

iRemit's Smiley and Pay transactions are ready for pick-up within 3 hours by the beneficiaries. This remittance service is available in any of the 1,000+ iRemit

# Celebrating 5 years of serving the global Filipino

AT THE HEART OF REMITTANCE CONTRIbucion on the country is iRemit, a company committed to serving Filipinos anywhere abroad via modern and efficient remittance facilities. CelebratIng 5 years in the remittance business today, iRemit has become a trusted name for OFWs and foreign partners, having expanded its network to 38 countries worldwide. At iRemit, remittances are fast and accurately delivered to OFW loved ones in the Philippines.

Established in March 2001 by Filipino-Chinese businessmen, iRemit operates initially in Hong Kong. The company was a carefully planned and nurtured business project from the start. In an interview with iRemit Chairman Ramon C. Chua, he said that their first years in the business proved the new company against long-entrenched competitors made up mainly of banks and non-banks. He stated that the strategy – then as now – was twofold: to develop and execute plans and procedures well, and to adopt flexibly various business models suitable to the OFW market.

These two areas helped iRemit evolve into a first-class remittance center abroad providing high-end technology and remittance services. Aside from the traditional modes of bank-to-bank and door-to-door remittance, iRemit also offers innovative products like the iRemit Visa Electron Card, an ATM debit card in one launched in 2001 in Taiwan. In addition, SSS, Pag-IBIG and PhilHealth membership contributions are also offered in iRemit offices abroad due mainly to its partnership with these respective government agencies as well as with other companies.

The iRemit Visa Electron which had set new standards in remittance is now being enjoyed by thousands of cardholders because the card provides fast and accurate credits. One partly to this success, iRemit has also launched its new remittance card, the iRemit Visa Card, last May 2006.

According to iRemit president Hanta O. Jacinto, the company also has the competitive edge in its dynamic and cautious decision-making by its highly competent management team. A dedicated team of Country Care Officers who manage the country and support foreign offices, associates and direct enablers is 24/7 customer service oriented and customer centric. These highly trained professionals also handle inquiries about status of transactions and instructions from abroad. With this global customer service, iRemit partner agents need not worry about handling customer concerns.

Technology also plays a major role in its 5 years. The ready access of iRemit offices and partners abroad to the iRemit foreign system via internet is highly secured with the use of firewalls, secure socket layer (SSL) using 128-bit encryption, digital certificates and password identification. To further secure the system, every remittance transaction is encrypted with hash coded text keys to ensure authenticity of transaction details while check and balance control is implemented across the procedure cycle from its office abroad to its head office in Manila.

Furthermore, iRemit offices and tie-ups abroad are required to comply with the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) to ensure that funds being sent through the iRemit Foreign System are of lawful and verifiable origin. Regular inspections with different financial authorities is also properly secured such as Austrac, Fintrac and OFI.

Today at five years, iRemit remains steadfast to its mission of providing OFWs globally with long-term relationships, value for money and quality products and services. With its presence in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, Singapore, Brunei, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Israel, Lebanon, Switzerland, Netherlands, Ireland, Saipan and Spain, iRemit continues on its path to innovate, create, and establish pioneering efforts in the remittance market.

## *Lending a hand in securing a bright future for the OFW*

THE EXODUS OF FILIPINOS TO SEEK OVERSEAS IS A mixed blessing. On the one side, not only do their loved ones build better lives through education, acquisition of properties or even the creation of new businesses, the flow of remittances has also helped shape the nation through additional revenues. However, the exodus is also a cause for social concern. Many of the Filipino families left behind cope with the absence of the mother or father (OFW's counterpart) are aware of the gaps, but courageously make the pursue to have a better future.

iRemit lends a hand in securing a bright future for the OFW by providing fast, reliable and secure remittance services.

Jessica Gan has been working abroad for five years already. She has been using iRemit's remittance service for four years now. She said that through iRemit her family receives the money she sends promptly.

"With the money I sent through iRemit, I was able to help my brother finish his studies. Now he is a nurse. I was also able to buy some lots as a source of income for my family."

Cora Evangelista has been working abroad for seven years. She has been remitting money via iRemit facilities for five years now. She said iRemit's personnel are very accommodating and helpful in facilitating money transfers to her family here. "Thanks to iRemit, my children can safely get the money I send them for their school matters and do their finances in iRemit."

Hida Aguilar who has been staying abroad for five years finds iRemit very reliable. "They send money for, especially if my family needed it badly. Thanks to iRemit, I was able to help my son when he was confined in the hospital."

Payout Banners in the Philippines, and comes with an email notification to the beneficiary.

With iRemit's Visa Card, remitted money can now be withdrawn through more than 3,000 ATMs across the Philippines. Transferring to a debit and ATM card is easy, the card enables cardless purchase through any Visa merchant establishment in the Philippines and anywhere in the world. It also enables cash withdrawal from any Bannet or Megalink ATM in the Philippines, and from any Visa ATM worldwide.

iRemit also offers Globe G-cash, a mobile phone-based system that enables easy and convenient phone-to-phone electronic cash transfers. This method makes use of text messages to send and receive electronic cash. Globe G-cash is powered by Globe Telecom.

Smart Padala is the world's first international cash remittance service via text. It is a safe, secure and fast way of sending money through text messaging. Smart Padala is powered by Smart Communications Inc., the Philippines' leading wireless service provider.

iRemit also offers payment facilities such as contributions for Social Security System (SSS), Pag-IBIG Fund, Philhealth, Loyola Education System, Philippine Plaza and Real Estate Payments.

## *Introducing the New iRemit Visa Card*

# Cebu furniture firms to tap European market; exports to US down

By Irene R. Sinc-Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—RECOGNIZING the need to access new markets, the Cebu Furniture Industry Foundation Inc. (CFIF) has embarked on a design training program to help furniture exporters get a bigger share of Europe's big market.

CFIF president Michael Ibañez said it is worse heading here the Cebu furniture manufacturers were losing part of the US market to competitors in China and Vietnam.

The 2006 of the Sector Report by the Panel Project of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) showed that the Philippine furniture exports to the United States went down from $226.4 million in 2000 to only $204 million in 2004.

According to the report, the Philippine furniture exports to the United States declined by an average of 2.83 percent over the five-year period.

In contrast, furniture exports from China to the US went up from $4.119 billion in 2000 to $9.919 billion in 2004.

Vietnam furniture exports to the US also rose from $9.1 million in 2000 to $284.4 million in 2004.

Because of this, Ibañez noted that the furniture industry has to look at other markets, with CFIF focusing first on Europe as having the greatest market potential.

"We have to understand the European market to be able to come up with designs that would sell there," Ibañez said.

He cited the experience of Dr. Jose, which has succeeded in selling all-weather furniture made from a synthetic fiber called Wicker that looks like natural fibers.

The CFIF design training series is expected to help Cebu-based firms follow Dr. Jose's example.

The series is funded by the European Union-Asia Invest and in collaboration with the German Association of Industrial Designers and the Foundation for Economic Development and Vocational Training.

The CFIF-EC will tap European experts to conduct the materials manipulation workshop at the University of San Carlos here.

Jan Arrigoitz, a multi-awarded European industrial and interior designer, and Aster Stubbe, a renowned furniture designer, interior architect and materials expert in Europe, will help participants identify their marketing goals.

The participating designers of the workshop would also be required to come up with their own designs for development into prototypes, Arrigoitz said.

# 3 economic zones for Baguio proposed

## Baguio Country Club wants status of duty-free medical tourism center

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THIS CITY MAY END UP hosting three economic zones now that the government is studying the bid of Baguio Country Club to become a duty-free medical tourism zone.

Baguio formerly hosts the Baguio City Economic Zone (BCEZ) and the Camp John Hay Special Economic Zone.

Modesto Aguas, BCEZ deputy manager, said the BCC's effort to build a health spa complex catering to foreigners was perhaps the most ambitious development yet among the 36 proposed registrations.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) promised $3.05 billion from the September request of the BCEZ that primarily to the business generated by Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. and Moog Controls Inc., an air line parts manufacturer.

Texas Instruments' Baguio factory produces most of the key hardware components used in manufacturing mobile phones.

The government is reviewing a plan to place the Camp John Hay economic zone under Peza administration after the Supreme Court invalidated its tax incentives. Aguas said during the opening of the Baguio zone's annual Christmas trade fair last week.

The Baron Corporation Development Authority subsidiary of the Camp John Hay base.

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said three economic zones would increase the city's potential revenues because four communities are entitled to 1 percent of the zone's gross income.

But Bautista raised some issues regarding the profits of three duty-free facilities here.

Local tax officials said the city was still trying to collect its share of the Baguio zone revenues, dating back to 2000, from the Department of Budget Management.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, a former mayor, placed the unremitted share at P1.26 million, prompting him to sponsor a measure requiring businesses inside Peza zones to remit 5 percent of their gross sales directly to the host local government.

Tax officials have also locked horns with the BCEZ over the unremitted locked shares of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDC), which now stands at P666 million.

CJHDC were stopped paying BCDA when the high court in 2004 nullified the benefits previously granted Camp John Hay in 1994.

"I like investments but I have some reservations. Economic zones have too much fiscal holidays so it is difficult to balance the benefits and consequences of these zones," Bautista told the business.

Bautista said he preferred increasing the city's share to 2 percent of Baguio's gross revenues to cushion the negative social impact of hosting three zones.

Chi Lo, editor head, Anthony de Leon, general manager of the country club, said the city should not worry about its collection issue.

He said a new hotel would increase local employment and investments.

De Leon said the club plans to develop 15 hectares of undeveloped land into a complex within 10 years in order to open a new high-capital investment site for the city.

He said it would cost the club P3 billion to make the property attractive to spa and health clubs investors.

Teresa Bugo, BCEZ administrator, has agreed to share with the BCDA a six hectare zone property that overlaps with the Camp John Hay reservation.

The BCDA board approved on Oct. 23 a cooperation agreement that opens up half of the contested property to a leasehold contract with Bloop, said Aguas.

Along plans to put up a new factory there, he said.

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Ground Floor, The Legaspi Place, Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
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9:00 am - 6:00 pm / Mon. to Fri.

# Growers urged to grow onions

By Adeline Boquiz
Inquirer Central Luzon

GRANEXAN CITY—The president of the Union of Growers and Traders of Onions in the Philippines has urged onion growers to keep the faith in onion farming.

"There's still hope for our onion growing industry. It will not collapse," Ugac president Bhagingged Alcaraz said in a recent visit to onion farms.

Alcaraz said recent developments indicated that the harvest of local onion farmers would be protected from the entry of imported onions.

Alcaraz included growers in Bangabisan, Nueva Ecija and Mindoro in his appeal.

Many of the growers from these provinces, he said, were reportedly looking at changing crops because of stiff competition posed by imported onions.

He urged them to stop the course, saying that a government inter-agency committee had found evidence of onion smuggling and has been started an investigation.

Alcaraz said another development that augured well for the local onion industry was the reappointment of Arthur Yap as agriculture secretary.

He said Yap, in his first stint as agriculture secretary, met regularly with the onion farmers.

He said Yap had promised Nueva Ecija onion growers that they would be consulted prior to the Gil's granting of import permits.

"You should put your eggs (not hear) and soul in onion growing. We are more or less assured of continuous help from authorities concerned," he said.

Alcaraz earlier said the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) issued permits to import onions in February supposedly to augment the short fall in local production.

BPI continued to issue permits to the point that the market was flooded with cheap imported onions, he said.

He said imported onions were being sold at half the price of locally produced onions.

Locally grown onions cost at least P55 a kilogram due to the high cost of production and the additional expense for storing onions during the rainy season, he said.

# Hearing aids now mainstream

HEARING AIDS USED NOW evolved into better fitting, aesthetically appealing gadgets, which are now readily available in the market. One such example are Siemens hearing aids, distributed by Active Hearing Centre, owned and operated by Ephpathia Inc.

According to Rainbow Sola, regional manager for sales and marketing, Asia Pacific, Siemens Medical Instruments Pte Ltd, hearing aids are now in proportion to terms of the innovations brought about by the needs of the market. "Hearing aids are more not just hardware equipment which the elderly are seen with; its usage is now given a new perspective now that hearing therapy can access all ages already."

Although the usage and the demand for hearing aids have seen huge within the last few years, Sola states that it can be a costly process. Given the size of therapy and rehabilitation of hearing impairments, Sola stresses, "hearing aids can be is useful in the case, but given the cost and the effort of maintenance, we have the need for business partners to aid deter the concern. One such partnership formed is that with Active Hearing Center."

"The partnership proved to be beneficial for Siemens and the market, according to Sola. "With this partnership, we now can address the concerns for maintenance and duration of the products. In the same vein trainings are given to dealer and clinicians and hearing specialists of Active Hearing Center to meet the client's needs."

Sola adds, "the partnership with Active Hearing Center also helps in the educational program and helps us to delve in order to further promote proper hearing care and therapy.

"Ephpathia Inc was just recently appointed by Siemens Medical Instruments Pte Ltd to be the sole distributor of high quality original Siemens Hearing Aids in Metro Manila and Southern Luzon."

Siemens Hearing Aids are solely distributed by Ephpathia Inc through its retail outlets carrying the trade name Active Hearing Center Therapies has branches within the Metro Manila and Southern Luzon area. Its four branches have facilities equipped with the latest methodologies and hearing aids that compliment every patient's requirements. Active Hearing Center is the only accredited distributor of Siemens hearing aids in Metro Manila and Southern Luzon.

For more inquiries, call Ephpathia Inc at 920-4898 or 920-3726, or e-mail mds.phils@gmail.com.

**HUMILA TURNS 80**

Last Nov. 11, the Quezon City Circle literally turned red as hundreds of volunteers from across all ages converged if not wore top appearers red shirts as they helped out and participated in Gina Cortez's latest and greatest campaign or sponsorship program "Step Up! "Step Up!" is another program under Gina Cortez's healthy and active lifestyle (HAL) initiatives. The two-hour charity workout is based on the commonsensical that Gina Cortez will convert the total number of calories burned into donations and donate the sum to the community nutritional center of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC). And this Sunday, Nov. 19, it's Lolo's turn to run red with the "Step Up Manila" workout around the Rizal Luneta grounds across the Rizal Monument. Join the volunteers who have signed up. You too can sweat it out, help out and "Step Up!". "Step Up Manila!" is the second of three events leading up to the major "Step Up!" event at the Market! Wednesday at the Fort on Dec. 2.

# Treatment cost major barrier in hypertension management

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONSTRAINTS for controlling hypertension is the limitation of resources for health care, reports World Health Organization. This is particularly true in low- and middle-income countries such as the Philippines, which contribute to 80 percent of the global cardiovascular burden.

The high cost of medicines is the most common reason patients with hypertension cannot effectively manage their condition. When not managed effectively, high blood pressure can lead to serious complications or even death, an unfortunate event when there is not enough money available to sustain long-term treatment.

Effective and affordable brands of medicine can be an answer to the problem of treatment non-compliance. If the patient has the option to buy an affordable yet bioequivalent medicine, it is more likely that he would adhere to the treatment regimen recommended by his doctor.

Theraphenia, a division of United Laboratories and a known advocate of pharmaeconomics, will soon be launching a new brand of enalapril. Andolipine is one of the most prescribed drugs for hypertension. It is also one of the most expensive drugs at P77 per tablet, though, a generic medicine, less encashed it.

With the introduction of a new and affordable brand in the market, more patients can enjoy the protection provided by andolipine. In keeping with the Theraphenia tradition of providing patients with safe, effective and affordable medicines, the new andolipine will be marketed at 30-percent less than the prevailing price of the originator brand.

This will pave the way for improved treatment compliance among hypertensive patients which will eventually lead to better blood pressure management. In addition to this, hypertensive patients will also get more comfy complications brought about by uncontrolled blood pressure. The new andolipine will provide a smart choice for hypertensive patients which will help prolong lives.


Republic of the Philippines
**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Regional Office 2
Malaro, Santiago City

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**
**"Procurement of Hauling Services"**

| LOT | ROUTE | DISTANCE (Kilometers) | VOLUME (Bags Rice) | MINIMUM TRUCK SIZE (cbm) | ABC (Php) | SOURCE OF FUNDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NFA Warehouse to NFA Quirino | 111 | 30,000 | 11 | 1,350,000.00 | CY 2006 |
| 2 | NFA Warehouse to NFA Isabela | 111 | 30,000 | 11 | 1,350,000.00 | do |
| | | | 60,000 | 11 | 2,700,000.00 | |

| ACTIVITY | SCHEDULE | VENUE |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Invitation | Dec. 1, 2006 | NFA Regional Office, Malaro, Santiago City |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | Dec. 07, 2006 @ 10:00 | NFA Regional Office, Malaro, Santiago City |
| 3. Publication and Posting (Web) | Dec. 08, 2006 @ 10:00 | NFA Regional Office, Malaro, Santiago City |
| 4. Pre-bidding | Dec. 11 @ 10:00 | NFA Regional Office, Malaro, Santiago City |
| 5. Issuance of Invitation | Dec. 12, 2006 | NFA Regional Office, Malaro, Santiago City |

Approved by:
ATTY. ANTONIO M. TUDDAO
Regional Manager

**QUEZON CITY SALUTES 100 TOP TAXPAYERS**

SM Megamall was honored as one of Quezon City's Top Taxpayers in 2006 during a ceremonial dinner held recently at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila. The Kapuso Network was represented by Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Affairs Group Felipe S. Yalong (center) with Bureau of Internal Revenue Secretary Margarito Teves Jr. (2nd from left) and Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (3rd from right). Also shown (from left) are GMA VP for supply and asset management Gerardo Gonzalez; GMA VP for human resources development Ma. Lourdes Ubay; Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista; GMA VP for finance Rosario Bautista; and Quezon City Treasurer Victor Endaya.


*PCS Ruby reunions*

THE PACO CATHOLIC SCHOOL (PCS) Grade School '62 and High School '66 will have its 40th grand class reunion (Ruby) anniversary dinner party on Dec. 2 (Saturday) at the Harbor Room of the Manila Yacht Club, Roxas Boulevard, Manila at 6 p.m. and the PCS grand alumni homecoming '06 at the school grounds on Dec. 9 starting at 6 p.m. For inquiries, call Tony Antonio at (0917-8184525, Lyn Rosales at (0917-3275463, Cynthia Gonzaul at (0916-3297580, Mc Pabellon at (0917-9203946, or Alex Ygbuhay at (0916-5301164.


# 6th Noel Bazaar a tourist event

THE RAPIDO NETWORK'S Sixth Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping Expo 2006, which is high together two of the new shopping havens under one roof, promises to be a one-of-a-kind tourist shopping event at the World Trade Center Tent, Nov. 24 to 26 and Dec. 1 to 10.

The bazaar is in line with the theme of the Department of Tourism in promoting the Philippines as a bargain shopping haven in town.

Entrepreneurs will display their most unique Christmas merchandise, many items exclusively and one-of-a-kind collections of exclusive finds at rock bottom prices.

Apart from over 500 products, fashion items, food items, Christmas home decors, and novelty items, an exciting lineup of special shows will be staged for the mark-mented bazaars of the year.

Patrons shopping will surely be more enjoyable with entertainment from the Kapuso stars, headed by Jennylyn Mercado, Dingdong Dantes, Marian Rivera, Dennis Trillo, Rochelle Pangilinan, Iza Calzado, Ruffa Gutierrez, Richard Gutierrez, Mark Herras, Jolina Magdangal, Sam Milby, Bea Alonzo, Angel Aquino, Carmina Villarroel, Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez, Gary Valenciano, Christopher de Leon, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Rico Yan, Aiko Melendez, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Dolphy, Vilma Santos, Aga Muhlach, Sharon Cuneta, Kris Aquino, Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo, Piolo Pascual, Claudine Barretto, Diether Ocampo, Heart Evangelista

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed

**FEVI VELASQUEZ PURISIMA**

He the 17th year of her birth to Eternal Life
November 17, 1989

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage, Cubao, Quezon City ..... 5:00 a.m.
St. Joseph of Immaculate Perpetual Adoration, Quezon City ..... 5:00 a.m.
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C.
Parish of St. James the Great, Scout Mariano Village, Quezon City ..... 6:00 a.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Thomas Parish, Scout Delgado, Quezon City ..... 6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Cubao Village, Q.C. ..... 6:15 a.m.
Our Lady Mount of Carmel Church, Kamuning, Quezon City ..... 7:30 a.m.
San Ildefonso Parish Church, Bocaue Bul. ..... 5:30 p.m.

We Ildel, Cesar, Stella and Grace request relatives, friends and peers, readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

*In Loving Memory*

*on the 3rd Death Anniversary of*

# ATTY. FLORENCIO T. SANTOS

*a loving husband, devoted father and supportive grandfather... a friend, mentor, and colleague...*

*who joined His Creator on November 17, 2003.*

*He is survived by his wife,* **Atty. Natividad N. Santos**

*and his four children and their families:*

*Robet & Maria; Jenny and Bobby*
*Cesar & Baby; Michael & Vanessa; and Dr. Mary*
*Vina & Engr. Ramon Morales; Vince, Ryan & Wendy; Ralph, Monica, and Michelle*
*Ellen & Dr. Glenn Abando; Nicole, Bela, and Ana*

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lourdes Church**, Potero St., Q.C. | 6:30am |
| **Sto. Domingo Church**, Quezon Ave, Q.C. | 6:00 am |
| **Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus**, Gilmore, Q.C. | 6:00 am |
| **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**, Closet, Q.C. | 6 am & 6 pm |
| **Santuario de San Jose**, Greenhills, San Juan | 6:15 am |
| **Christ the King Church**, Greenmeadows, Q.C. | 6 am, 7 am & 6 pm |
| **Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus**, San Miguel, Manila | 7 am & 5 pm |
| **Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag**, Pangasinan | 9:00 am |
| **St. Patrick's Church**, Missions St., San Francisco, CA | 12 pm |
| **Nuevo Dume dos Victobres**, Buch St., San Francisco, CA | 12:10 pm |
| **Holy Spirit Catholic Church**, E. Champlain St., Fresno, CA | 7:30 am |

*Grandpa, memories of you are etched deeply in our minds and in our hearts... forever*

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

**John 3:16**

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

Always coming...

**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 5:8

*Until we meet again Papsy...*

Paterno Bram Dimaano
known to the Professional Golfing Community as

## Paterno Braza

WITH THE GRACE OF HIS CREATOR, PASSED AWAY ON NOVEMBER 12, 2006 AT FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA, USA. HIS REMAINS WILL BE AT THE LA PURISIMA INC. FUNERAL PARLORS, PASAY CITY STARTING ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006. HIS WILL BE CREMATED AND BURIED WITH HIS WIFE DELORES ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2006 AT THE MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, SUCAT, PARANAQUE CITY.

PAYING WILL BE ALSO GREATLY BY HIS CHILDREN – GELL PAT JR., TENG DENVER AND DEL JOHN-IN-LAW RAMON AND RUTCH, DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW JENNY AND PAM AND GRANDCHILDREN RACHEL, KATHRYN, RAFAEL, BRYNNE, JOSHUA, YSABELA, HEAVEN, SHANE AND EMIL.

FAMILY, RELATIVES & FRIENDS REQUEST THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

*More Classified Ads on Page B10*

City of General Santos
National Food Authority
Local Government Units of Calilangan

*Beloved Mama*

## Maria Jeciel Empig

*Has joined her husband* **Hilario** *and peacefully rests in the bosom of our Lord on November 15, 2006 at the age of 83.*

Her loving sister, **Rosario Baltasar**; **nephews and nieces, Violet de Borja, Aristeo Baltasar, Winston Baltasar, Pamela Denning, Pia Baltasar**; **their spouses, grandnephews and nieces**; her relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Presidential Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Makati City immediately following the 10:00 am Mass and cremation at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

# People, Events & Products

## Could your stomach be dyspeptic?

EVERYONE PEOPLE ARE COMPLAINING about recurring stomach discomfort. But don't be too quick to ignore your symptoms and think it up to a bad case of indigestion. Studies abroad show that your abdominal indigestion will usually recover a case of dyspepsia.

Dr Randy Mercado and Dr. Harvie Dr. Quevedo-de Ocampo, whose medical expertise finds focus on gastroenterology, defines dyspepsia "as a grouping of symptoms such as stomach pain or aching, bloating, fullness, burning or indigestion that is centered on your upper abdomen."

Because dyspepsia is actually a heterogeneous group of upper abdominal symptoms that may arise from numerous causes and results in gastrointestinal ailments, patients often symptoms the condition for what it is. So instance, bloating, a heavy stomach, post-meal fullness, nausea and gas is similar to discomfort. Others would experience epigastric pain which mimics ulcer-like symptoms or heartburn and acid regurgitation which is reflux-like in nature. Upon the onset of discomfort, most would usually take over the counter drugs usually antacids that can temporarily relieve the pain rather than seek medical help and deal with the root cause of the problem.

"Certain foods, such as fatty meals, usually increase acid or gas. Normally, the stomach empties itself after a few hours, some food groups are known to decrease the contraction rate which can cause bloatedness or discomfort," notes Mercado.

### Stomach delay

"Dyspepsia usually causes delay in the emptying of the stomach and that's when the various upper abdominal symptoms begin to manifest. When that happens, your body won't really have an effect the digestive ability and going away because the acid isn't going away from the stomach," adds Dr. Quevedo-de Ocampo.

Despite being a recurring condition, its intermittent nature leads to dyspepsia not being taken seriously. "The important thing to remember is that dyspepsia is a recurring condition especially if the symptoms are not being handled or medicated properly," says Mercado.

Most dyspepsia patients possess complaints that respond to noninvasive, medication and lifestyle or dietary modification as advised by their doctors. "In the treatment of dyspepsia, aside from the pharmacologic or nutritional treatment prescribed psychological support is also important. People who seek consultation tend to be concerned that they are not suffering from anything more serious. Fear of cancer and malignancy is always there," he continues.

Lack of improvement in the general tendency to ignore symptoms may, however, be a cause for concern. Mercado lists the following alarm symptoms that patients should look out for and should not ignore. "Age is important particularly if you are 50 (and above) and are experiencing dyspeptic symptoms. Unintended weight loss, anemia and episodes of bleeding accompanied by dyspepsia are also signs that you should seek medical help and also if symptoms have become recalcitrant to medication." Such indications may be symptomatic of peptic ulcer, gall reflux disease, malignancy or gastric disorders.

For basic dyspepsia treatments, patients are told to avoid smoking, spicy or raw food, dairy products, coffee, alcoholic beverages, citrus fruits as well as tea and are usually given a prescription for domperidone such as Motilium.

Motilium increases the movement of the stomach, which will relieve dyspeptic symptoms by regulating its emptying process. Vomiting tablets should be taken three times a day 30 minutes before meals. Tablets it to be taken regularly for a period of one to three weeks," Mercado explains. "Dyspepsia is potentially reversed, able everybody in this entire life will experience some form of dyspepsia. It happens to everyone."

"Your stomach does not move with just one dose. You have to guide the stomach by regularly taking the medication so its emptying will be regularized. Dyspepsia is a motility problem that isn't permanent, but the problem comes and goes," adds Quevedo-de Ocampo. "The same time the symptoms persist themselves, you can already self-medicate using Motilium which can effectively relieve dyspeptic symptoms."

Domperidone (Motilium) is marketed and distributed by Janssen Pharmaceutica, which has an international reputation of pharmaceutical innovation and quality.

## *The International Bazaar Foundation at 40*

THE INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR FOUNDATION, AN ORGANIZATION that helps uplift the living conditions of the poor and less fortunate Filipinos, continues to spread the joy of giving as it celebrates its 40th year with another fun-filled bazaar. It will be held at the PICC Forum, CCP Complex in Roxas Boulevard on Nov. 30, and will include the participation of 38 members of the diplomatic corps, 8 members of the consular corps and 150 local participants. Proceeds of the sales will be used to fund IBF's projects. This year, Rosie Lowe Rosales, wife of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto Romulo, once again leads her energetic spirit to make the bazaar one to remember. As the guiding light of the IBF since 2004, she continues to spearhead the organization's projects in the most effective and productive manner.

# BUSINESS

# RP payments surplus balloons to $3.15B

## Inflows boosted by higher OFW remittances, export receipts

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A balance-of-payments surplus of $930 million in October, its biggest in nine months, bringing the total for the first 10 months to $3.15 billion, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

"The BOP surplus for January to October is due to double-digit growth in overseas Filipino workers' remittances, narrowing trade deficit following strong merchandise exports, higher foreign direct investments and high net investment income of the BSP," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

The cumulative surplus for the January to October period was 27 percent higher than the $2.5 billion surplus a year ago.

For October alone, the surplus was a turnaround from the deficit of $400 million in the same month last year.

The surplus in October was the fifth in a row, while the biggest monthly surplus (by peso terms) posted by January to October.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the local economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a debit item in the BOP while a deal that gives rise to a receipt like borrowing, exporting is treated to generate a surplus item.

The cumulated BOP surplus for October was in line with the BSP's rising foreign reserves. The gross international reserves breached the $22.1 billion mark in end-October or hit an all-time high of $22.27 billion despite some foreign debt prepayments made during the month.

The CSB... consuming of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund and foreign investments...is an indicator of a country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy for importation and debt servicing.

The strengthening of the peso against the dollar alongside the bullish regional currency market has also given the BSP the opportunity to further build up its reserves while smoothening excessive market volatility. It has likewise taken advantage of strong foreign exchange inflows by easing the country's external debts ahead of maturity.

The strong foreign exchange inflows allowed the BSP to retire in October $466 million worth of loans and notes ahead of their original maturity in 2007 and 2009. This was on top of the retiring of regular foreign exchange obligations by the BSP and the national government that fell due during the period.

## Money in the Bank

By Eamon Kapoor, Intel Asia Pacific
Financial Services Vertical Industry Manager

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Business/Features Editor Margie Quiroga Espino

# Growing big together

## Sacada groups are now Negros' new millionaires

By Mozelita A. Gonzales
Contributor

IMELDA CERVANTES became a sugar worker at 12, earning P5 a day for weeding. "To get work, we had to line up at 3 a.m. and toil at the cane fields from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.," she recalls. Cervantes, now 38, is still a sugar worker. But her new area is her own organization, the Mitsuru Isabel Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (Miarba). Miarba earned its first million in 2004 and netted P2.8 million more from their last cane crop.

At least five other sugar worker organizations which got land under agrarian reform have also earned

BACKGROUND

## Farmers find ampalaya has sweet taste

By Tarcelo Crejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN Fernando—When Alusario Limpin says that the ampalaya or bitter gourd has a sweet taste to it, you better believe him.

That is how the 54-year-old farmer's way of pointing out the good that ampalaya brought to his group, the Samahan ng mga Ampalaya ni Cooperative Inc. (Sani), and its 31 members.

The summary of the Sani's affair with the ampalaya goes like this: After just one harvest in 1995, the cooperative managed to settle its first loans of P20,000. More ampalaya

FARMERS/B3

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# The forgiveness of (tax) sins

By Bernard U. Colmenares and Jose B. Osorio
SGV & Co.

THE TAX BUREAU CONTINUES its forgiving disposition towards delinquent taxpayers.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has extended to abatement program to which taxpayers, whether corporate or individual, can perceive opportunity to settle their delinquent accounts or assessments without paying any penalties.

The so-called "One-Time Administrative Abatement of all Penalties, Surcharges and Interest on Delinquent Accounts and Assessments" under Revenue Regulations 23-2006, which originally expired on Dec. 31, 2006, has been extended until Dec. 22, 2006. The extension as provided in Revenue Memo Circular No. 82-2006, allows the taxpayers more time within which to take advantage of the BIR's considerable, if somewhat anachronistic, generosity towards evasive individuals and corporations.

The term "abatement" literally means a reduction or a lessening of something. And in its guidance, it is a term used to refer to a reduction or a cancellation of a tax assessment. The abatement program under RR 15-2006 provides that a taxpayer who has a delinquent account or assessment which has been released as of June 30, 2006, needs to pay only the basic tax assessed. The penalties, including the 20 percent annual interest and the 25 percent surcharge prescribed under the Tax Code, are waived.

Basic tax assessed refers to the original tax dictated on the return filed, the tax due shown on the Assessment Notice and Letter of Demand, excluding surcharge and interest, the original 2nd Installment Increase Tax on the amount of the dishonored check to cover where a taxpayer's check which he used to pay his taxes bounced.

The waived amounts of penalties, surcharges and interest are those that accrued from the time the taxpayer was liable for the tax until the time the tax was paid. For example, if the taxpayer was liable for the tax in 1998 but paid the tax in 2006, the penalties, surcharges and interest for the eight years are waived.

The abatement program covers a wide array of tax cases. The list includes:

(a) Delinquent Accounts/Assessments Receivable Cases;

(b) Income Tax Deficiency Cases;

(c) Dishonored Check Cases;

(d) Cases with administrative protest pending;

(e) Seizured cases, whether preliminary or final, as of June 30, 2006;

(f) Civil tax cases being disputed before the Department of Justice and the courts, including decided cases which are not yet final and executory;

(g) Collection Cases filed with the Courts;

(h) Cases with pending request for Compromise Settlement;

(i) Cases with pending request for abatement on previous BIR assessment; and

(j) Refund for withheld VAT, holding taxes discovered upon audit.

(k) Criminal violations.

## TAX-FILES

Excluded from the program, however, are those cases where the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has an interest or cases involving collaboration with the PCGG, also excluded are those involving Criminal Tax Evasion pending before the courts, those under the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program of the BIR, and tax fraud cases which are the results of third party confidential information or after such period. Taxpayers whose the taxpayer has already paid any portion of assessments on his or her tax liabilities are also outside the coverage of the program.

A taxpayer wishing to avail of the program can file an application for abatement in the appropriate BIR offices. To avoid any confusion, the BIR has the 8th floor where the taxpayer can file the application for abatement, as follows:

(a) Revenue District Office — For Regional Office Cases under its jurisdiction;

(b) Assessment Division — For Regional Office Cases with administrative protest;

(c) Legal Division — For Regional Office Cases with judicial protest or for judicial action or with administrative protest involving legal issues;

(d) Collection Service — For Delinquent Accounts under the jurisdiction of the national office other than (D) Cases;

(e) Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) — For Large Taxpayer Cases under the jurisdiction of the Large Taxpayers Service;

(f) Legal Service — For National Office Cases due for judicial action or with judicial protest and/or administrative protest involving legal issues;

(g) Enforcement Service — for tax cases handled by the National Investigation Division of the National Office.

The basis for filing depends on which BIR Office has possession of the docket of the case. The taxpayer can then pay the basic tax in full or through a staggered payment scheme as approved by the BIR. Taxpayers, wishing to settle, however, will not be entitled to unless the concerned taxpayer shall fully pay the entire amount of the basic tax.

The Regulations provides that after payment of the basic tax and the cancellation of the assessment for penalties, the docket of the case will be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner which in turn issues a Termination Letter. The latter is the taxpayer's proof of pardon for his or her past tax sins.

# Farmers find ampalaya has sweet taste

From page B3-1

growing resistance boosted Ilocos's rice production 91 million as it used 13 more cities in Indonesia by 1995.

But this success happened in latter times, under a situation hostile to agriculture, says Limpin, Ilocos's president.

The world's worst eruptions in the last half of the 20th century removed eight in their midst. Worst, one of Mt. Pinatubo's major tributaries of lahar (mud-flows) flowed through the village of Dam in Bacolor, Pampanga.

The Pasig-Potrero River, the source of irrigation for wide stretches of irrigation farms in Dam, became the conveyor of lahar that flows came in endless.

When it rained each night, mud and pumice stones on the slope of the biggest blast, June 15, 1991, Limpin says he and 300 or so farmers in the village had removed the ampalaya seeds, especially the native ones they call "mavarro" and "mataliya."

By 1993, the 15 founding members organized by the Benedictine nuns in coordination with the Social Action Center of Pampanga started it out by gathering pumice stones behind and by the volcano and washed down by rains in the river.

Sold at 30 per sack to dress-making companies, the pumice stones helped put food on the table when farming success beckon, Ah made the soil acidic.

The biggest labor campaign coming with least warning on Oct. 1, 1991, struck in the remaining farmers out of Dam.

Without newborn but with enough seeds, Limpin says they found a dam because land in San Pedro Cutud in Mexico town, about 5km 20 km and of Bacolor. That's when the loan name handy to open for business, he adds.

"We only had our seeds and our labor to begin with," Limpin recalls of that starting more phase. Most of those involved were old farmers like Bienvenido Lamatsinlo, 70, now a director of Sac).

Two months later—just about the exact time that the ampalaya were big enough to harvest—they proved two things. First, the soil was fertile and suitable. Second, there was clear money to pay off the loan and it matter the new harvest. There has been no idle planning session story.

The biggest farmers realized they also industries were saving in San Pedro Kamuning. Residents there tried their hands at ampalaya farming. To date, about 60 of them are still into the same thing, Limpin says.

Soon then developed another food business in Barangay Cabalut in this Pampanga capital. One spanned 1.2 ha; the other, 3 ha, so it opened new store, it accepted more members.

These two new ones near Sari members going into integrated farming. While ampalaya occupies larger parcels, the other plots are planted with corn, rice, yam, peanuts, tomato, string beans and sweet gourd.

As when they started, each of the cultivators gets a 30 percent share of the gross income from out of their labor equally. Each one contributes a capital build up kind of 3 pesos.

"First of all, we stopped relying on bank loans since 2004," Limpin notes. The 15 million our worth includes a small fund reserve, several windows and shelters solar wells.

Per Cut cropping season, a net income of P500,000 is estimated to be earned from every hectare of ampalaya. The net income from crop, manure after 70 days, is forecast at P60,000 per hectare.

Livestock projects an income of P 100,000 from 3 hectare he planted to yam.

Limpin recently awarded the two native seeds. A piece of the new variety, which he has no name for, is big enough to weigh 4 kg, he says.

The wives of Sari members handle the marketing in Angeles City or at Clarex Food in Dau in City.

In 2005, at least 14 members have gone back in Dau, farming rice and sugarcane right within the IMR Megaville. Close to one of 37 Bacolor villages ringed by the lahar pumiced in the Pampan ga's river delta against lahar.)

A few have entered their land at P4,000 a hectare to sugar growers just so the land could be cleared of weeds.

As barangay captain, Limpin knows of P 100,000 loans to farmers willagers and 30 other families.

From the P100,000 earned in two months from the Philcan chain per truckload of seed, the village chief has built two houses and less blocks. Each family got 500 pieces to start homes.

In Limpin's view, farmers dutely need government subsidy for production support. Fertilizer, for instance, now cost P900 per 50 kg sack, twice higher the cost two years ago.

Subsidy he adds, should come loans. Commercial bank now grow high at 11 percent plus service fee. The Coop Bank in Pampanga, established by and for farmers, charges 12 percent plus service fee of 3 percent on expenditure.

What Sari has been able to get from the Department of Agriculture are free certified seeds and training on new technology.

Speaking for Bacolor farmers, Limpin says banks should start accepting land titles as collateral. Farmers still don't because of the interest rate.

By 2007, Sari plans to go full blast into integrated farming in Dau. And ampalaya, like it was before the disaster, will be the cornerstone, he says.

# How do you reinvent a 'sunset industry'

From page B3-4

ticing to our advertiser right now, we go beyond Hong Kong and China. Our ads are now seen in Europe, in America, in all ten weeks. So, in America who consume our searches for plastic, for example, our advertisers will come out.

Hazel Pelayo: For us, the economic product is still negligible, but we see a great opportunity for us in the short to medium term. With the phenomenal growth of mobile phones in Sri Lanka, we think that in the next two to three years, some 20 to 40 percent of our revenue will come from providing content to mobile phone companies.

For questions, e-mail Marlon Ingle@inq7.net or chat Marl

# Sacada groups are now . . .

From page B3-1

their first million from sugarcane farming. These groups manage their stock in stock for easier trade. They grow cane collectively and/or genetically and sell most of the produce to their Trade, a fair trade organization based in Negros Occidental. After Trade sells the cane into mainstream and exports it to fair trade buyers in Europe and Japan.

"We are planning better varieties of cane and striving to improve the way we manage things," says Gervacio. "Our dream is to provide better incomes for our members and send our children to school."

Sharing a 500 square daily wages that are higher than the minimum, a 13th month pay and modest health benefits. They also receive dividends from the profits—more than P10,000 each last year "I received what I see as a fortune," a woman member. "The biggest money I've ever handled was my P600 weekly wages."

Members replaced leaky thatched roofs with G.I. sheets, got electricity for the house and bought television sets. Women were delighted that they were finally free from debt to the tubos (financiers) instead of denied its plans. Members also bought pigs and chickens to raise and planted fruit- and/or trees and vegetables.

### Even dogs eat better

"Our lives have definitely improved," says Romulo Soble, recalling those days when cutting tree was a luxury. "We used to make do with rice soups because our daily wage was only as a time when a gantang of rice cost P60. Now, even our dogs eat rice."

Soble heads the Nolan Planters' Association (Amanca), another member of this unique millionaires' club whose combined income reached P1.1 million in the crop year 2004-2005. Their success goes beyond the "wages equals tubigs" formula.

Soble says that their group have improved on the harvesting system. "Some members wanted to sell their land 'bare' as opposed to farm it collectively," he says. "We are workers, not farmers, and most used to working on a group. We also have to pay taxes and asset tuition on the land to make sure that the land really becomes ours."

The land ownership is the most important member to ensure a production man agers who oversee cane growing. Members continue to report daily as workers, only now they have a role to farm things as owners. Training from After Trade included the months organizational to prepare minutes, financial statements, business development plans and financial statements that are suitable up to date. The groups have allowed where their annual resources would go: 1 percent for land tax, 10 percent for land amortization, 2 percent for savings and 10 to 80 percent of their annual production capital for capital build-up (DBC).

"We do not want to be millionaires in a day and forget the rest of the poor," says Gervacio. "The same this is to be sustainable." to a first step, the sacada organizations are building up their assets and investing on long-term projects so they have enough cash.

"We also do not want to depend on any organic agriculture," Gervacio says. "The sacada takes takes eight months to grow and harvest."

The groups have received one million pesos that members individually plans to reap and responsibilities.

To help the environment and secure their children's future, the groups have started planting hardwood and fruit trees.

After Trade's 2005 report counted more than 30 hectares replanted by its partners, or an average of more than 7 percent of every hectares.

The biggest forested/replanted area is maintained by the Union Bata Workers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (UBARBO) in Candelaria.

It opens more than 100 hectares of old forest and newly planted areas with an estimated value of P70 million.

But Soble stresses that this is not all about money. "We are striving to be better employers to non-members hired for extra work. We give higher wages—P 164 for less than a day's work," he says.

### Tying up with the fair trade market

Soble and Gervacio were elected recently to the After Trade board of directors to represent grassroots partner organizations, of whom there are now 18.

To accommodate them into their partners, After Trade built a new export mill which doubled its milling capacity from 30 tons to 60 tons of canes per day.

That it was able to do through a loan extended by Oikocredit, a global cooperative society assisting small producers in Third World countries.

The last also enabled After Trade to boost production of organic fertilizer to more than 20,000 bags per year and to extend more production loans to partners.

Sacada groups who are still saving for their first million had savings net increases of P300,000 from cane yields that ranged in size from a high of 60 tn to a low of 30 tn.

# Passbook helps entrepreneurs

FOR THE YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR, success is the result of combined hard work and patience.

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Hiltook wants every financial highlight to be recorded in its passbook as if in a diary. With its new personal saver scheme, customers can monitor their deposits and withdrawals. The new Hiltook passbook will help them keep better track of their money and aspirations in life.

Passbook savings are perceived to discipline one from making too many withdrawals. Compared with an ATM account that is highly accessible, transactions for passbook savings are usually done in branches, thus giving customers a moment to evaluate every withdrawal that they will make. This way, there's a better chance of building up savings because there is fewer temptation to withdraw money and indulge in impulse buying.

A Hiltook passbook lets clients withdraw from any of their 350 branches nationwide.

**CEO EXCEL AWARD.** For posting premium on communication in achieving business and stakeholder objectives, Philips president and CEO Hot Manas (speaking) was recently conferred CEO Excel Award 2006 by the International Association of Business Communicators. The award is a testimony to the progress Philips has achieved in communicating its brand promise of "sense and simplicity" for the past year. In accepting the award, Manas shared the recognition with all Philips employees in the Philippines whom he considers as the "heart and soul of our company."

## *Treasurer talks in Paref confab*

NATIONAL TREASURER OMAR T. Cruz will be the keynote speaker at the Paref second business conference today at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Pasig City. Usher operations unit Jose S. Sucaldito, Committee G. Salgado, Guido Alfredo A. Delgado. The conference aims to sustain delivery of quality basic education in an annual gathering of leaders and officers of the various schools and entities affiliated with the Parent for Education Foundation.

Paref schools are Southridge School, Northfield School, Woodrose School, Northfield School, Beaumont School, Fairfield School, Brookfield, Southcrest School, Springdale School and Talmadge School. For queries, call 631-4293.

## Bosconians hold general assembly

THE MEMBERS OF THE BOSCONIANS International Chamber of Commerce Inc. (BICC) will gather once again for their 2-in-1 celebration called "2gether" on Monday Dec. 4, 2006, at the New York Room, Sweets Plaza in Pasig City.

The special guest of honor and speaker will be Leny F Lara, the new president of Club Development Corp., who is an ex-alumnus of Don Bosco Academy in Pampanga.

BICC is the first school-based international business organization of Bosconian professionals and businessmen with 600 members.

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# BUSINESS Friday

## How do you reinvent a 'sunset industry'?

LAST WEEK IN SINGAPORE, WE asked marketing futurist, Faith Popcorn, for her predictions about the publishing industry (in particular the newspaper business) she shook her head and said, "There is no future." She was quick to add though that any business, like the publishing business, would have to reinvent itself in order to survive. (Hint: like how Madonna has reinvented herself over and over again," added Popcorn.)

A discussion on how the newspaper publishing business will have to reinvent itself is another column altogether, but perhaps lessons on how the Yellow Pages industry in Asia is not only surviving but thriving despite the onslaught of new media and alternatives, like the Internet, will give insight to any businessman or marketer who wonders how long he will be relevant in his customers.

Recently, the CEOs of the different Yellow Pages corporations in Asia and Australia gathered in Bangalore to wrestle with the issues of a fast-changing marketplace. Present were Ricardo "Bong" Ramirez, president of Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC), David Perrera, CEO of Directories Lanka (Sri Lanka), Ramesh Gupta, CEO of QUTE Infomediaries (India), Bernard Lee, CEO of PCOM Directories Ltd. (Hong Kong), and John Brennan, General Manager, International Business Development, Brook Fly Ltd. (Australia). Marketingbits was invited to moderate an open forum with these CEOs along with other journalists.

What follows is an interesting exchange of ideas and insights on how to reinvent oneself in the face of new challenges and competition.

MBit: There is a perception now that the Yellow Pages is a sunset industry. In Marketing "Redefining the Yellow Pages Business," Patrick Marshall says "wait, people are throwing them away but the Yellow Pages is not dead. It is in a state of stagnation or dormancy; it is fighting to maintain its relevancy in a more complex and diversified information media market place." Consumer behavior is changing rapidly. The vocabulary is changing from "let your fingers do the walking" to "let's look it up in the yellow pages" to "just Google it." Until 1994 almost all searches for local products and services were conducted through the Yellow Pages. Today that has obviously changed.

So the question is how is the Yellow Pages industry reacting to these changes?

John Brennan: I think the advent of Google, the electronic media, has shaken the whole industry and most companies are naturally reacting very strongly. I'll speak for Australia. Since we launched our Yellow Pages and white pages online sites back in 1995, (one of the earliest to do so, I think, worldwide), we've constantly been moving on the online space—but not to the neglect of our print business.

The growth is tailing off. It's common point that, our online businesses and also the emergent mobile business are exhibiting 30 percent to 70 percent growth. . . We've started looking at it from the consumers' point of view. Wherever the consumers get value, don't refuse charge. And therefore our goal is to make the Yellow Pages available to consumers wherever they happen to find themselves at home, at work, in their car. We've certainly been shaken, but we're responded and we're moving forward fast.

Bernard Lee: The whole world is changing very fast. The market place, user preferences, the choice of media—they are changing fast. So every product needs to change to stay with the new environment. For example, last year usage of our print Yellow Pages grew 48 percent because we changed the product. The Yellow Pages has become very colorful, very interesting to read and very easy to use, so search. We have done a lot of user research so we hear we can make people welcome the "book."

Mobile is coming up very fast as a new medium. So, we are launching mobile Yellow Pages as a new product. Every company has a range of products. The Yellow Pages companies also have a range of products. Buyers and sellers do not see us just a print company. We're a multimedia company.

MBit: The situation in the Philippines seems different...

Bong Ramirez: The revenue in the Philippines dropped a few years back, but we've been able to reverse that.

Two years ago, DPC published the Yellow Pages to coincide with the first time We did a lot of info pages, we added maps, we added a lot of information like how to apply for an NBI clearance, how to get an NSO certificate—we did several things that was useful to the consumers.

Based on our research, we have found out that our usage increased significantly and this is what we are now continuously using to the advertisers. And the usage is very strong; it's a lot stronger than any other medium. So, I believe that it is a question of being able to communicate to the advertisers.

MBit: Why don't you put the Yellow Pages on the cell phones?

Ramirez: We are in the mobile, and we are in the Internet. We call our mobile service i-GO, and our online service eTF or electronic Yellow Pages. We've been advertising this, but it will take time to make users familiar with these new Yellow Pages platforms because of all the media clutter right now.

MBit: What are the major obstacles that you need to overcome in making this big transformation in the Yellow Pages industry?

Brennan: In Australia, Internet penetration is high—more than 60 percent. One of the biggest problems that are had in the transformation was an internal one, which is actually the liberation of our content. We have thousands of content, really good stuff to our books. All of our IT systems, publishing systems were geared toward pumping it out in the printed form. To liberate that content in our systems, so that we could publish that in a multi-channel basis, was one of the biggest challenges we had. And it took us a number of years to overcome that. That was probably the biggest challenge.

MBit: Do you see new media, meaning Internet and mobile, eventually cannibalizing majority of your income as compared to the print media?

Brennan: In Australia, our online revenue is almost $100 million out of $1.8 billion. The print revenue is growing mid-single; the online revenue is growing faster. In 10 years time, we may go beyond 30-50, that we will keep pushing all our channels—and pushing them hard—so that they keep growing over the next few years.

Ramesh Gupta: Our online business is growing in such a geometric progression maybe not as fast as that in Australia or Hong Kong and our revenues are already up. Eventually we will wake up to a significant Internet business three to five years down the line.

Ramirez: On references of users P1 billion, the contribution of the Internet is small—it is still way below 1% percent—still less than P10MM. But in the last couple of years, the size of that business has tripled. From a base of almost zero, the growth rate has been phenomenal.

Lee: Hong Kong, broadband Internet penetration, print penetration and mobile penetration are one of the highest in the world. There are a lot of Internet users; a lot of people buy online advertising. In the years to come, we see that the online part will grow faster and bigger than print—the users being, the online function is very powerful and gone beyond just a directory. From the time we started, Yellow Pages was just a local directory—it's a Hong Kong directory for those who can't find it online, it's a worldwide directory. So, when we still adver-

MARKETING Rx, p. B3

# LIFESTYLE

Editor: Cheche Ramos Formoso

● WEDNESDAY **3BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

# In the fullness of life

By Irene C. Perez

YOU KNOW you're in trouble when you don't fit into a "free size." Then you go to the shop and ask the saleslady for the biggest size and she barely you stuff two sizes smaller for you. Or worse, she tells you, up close and too personal, that their biggest size won't fit you.

Welcome to the plus-size, or, full-figured clothes boutique that doesn't. And just be glad you are not whisked off to the maternity section.

Gothshoose Shirley Tuazon, who's been in the fashion business the 16 years, has found a way to address a neglected market by coming up with Maitee, a local clothing line catering to full-figured women. And by full she means twice size 10-22.

Her figure, who had taken parents-making classes, got bored with the same solid in local stores and began making her own clothes in the '90s. She later showed her pieces to the Landmark and was surprised as an in-house consignee he has up-size-size line for sale.

But there was a problem: "My customers who stayed with me over the years got married, gave birth, gained weight," says Tuazon.

Those customers asked for bigger clothes, but she couldn't provide any. Thus the birth of Maitee in 1999 in Robinsons Department Store and The Landmark. In 2002, SM stumbled it in Manila, the department store's first plus-size line.

**Big-size skinny jeans?**

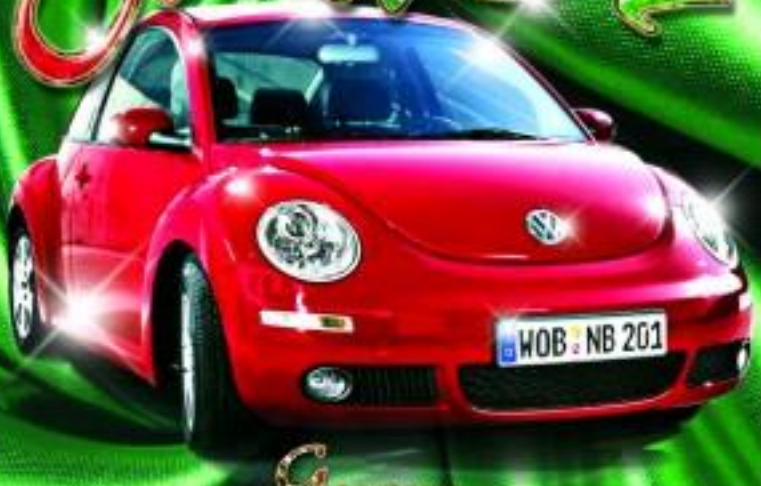
Locally available big-size clothes are largely sourced from foreign manufacturers and would look okay on Caucasians—but not on short-legged Filipino women.

"The bottoms would be loose," for-lipes, Maitee's general manager, says. "Those women have to go to dressmakers just to have decent shirts and jeans."

Ah, the jeans. Jeans and skinny-jeans. Designers insist that every size-up girls find it hard to


SHOPWISE

Circle of Car

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MARK Jones, Citibank's new business country manager, and wife Jenni J.

ONE OF the Philippines' stylish women, Cindy Yap, and husband, McDonald's young talent Kenneth Yang

STUNNING Dawn Zulueta and husband, Dante businessman Antoni Lugtanon

STUNNING beauty and fashion plate Marivic Cardenas Zobel de Ayala on eye-catching Donna Karan gown

THE PHILIPPINE Tatler gang toasts to this mega successful year. Editor in chief Aimee San Diego, general manager Lorna Patena Hurtado and society editor Maurice Arnache Malanyaon. Tatler managing director Florence Fung; Tatler publisher Irene Martel Francisco; Edipress CEO Bartie Dandridge; human resource director Blaise Dilemma; Edipress director for editorial publication and strategy, Olivia Lee Darie Hong Kong Tatler's Bee Cannon; and Tatler senior editor Cris Lajaco.

JOHN Castigador, Norway Palermo and Beverly Rosales

JUDGES and Sarah Peña with Rita Peña

MCO Terrence and daughter-in-law Mindy Weber-Terrence

PHILIP Ng and wife Maine M. of Ego Contracts Phils.

SMART Infinity's emcee-team Julie Carvalho

TATLER AWARDEES 2006. Cherrick Santos, Bienvic, Irene Martel Francisco, Ambassador Albert del Rosario, former President Fidel V. Ramos, Isabelle Daza, Linda Poblete and husband Ambassador Tom Lagtanon, Patricia Perillo and Vicky Zubiri

FMOOM Ayala, Sharie Ross-Tan, Iris Ayala

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arnache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare

ALI KIRK, Maria Purdue Tan, Reyna Herranz, Pepe Fernandez and Tonny Tan. Seated: Audrey Pualam Chiu, Shirley Miranzad, Kay Li and Lanlicia Yu

BUSINESS magnate Louie Araneta and wife Melba Romero A.

DEE-ANN Haw Zobel, head of this year's beneficiary, Operation Smile

AMBASSADOR Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Ching Mondinola and Erich Clay Kennin

DIANA Santos, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and wife Cristina Cunanan Ponce Enrile

TATLER 5 founders. Dr. Boya Mahinder and wife, ultra-glam Lina Boya Mahinder

BMW'S top man Dr. Jorge Bruno and Kay Santos

BUSINESSMAN Andy Bautista, adorable Bella Cruz, singers Helen Vasconcellos-Dee, Singapore's socialite Mayo Chan and French Provost's Tisha Cruz Bautista

MINA Huang and Cricketa Terrenza


JOJI Chingcuangco and Lizette Cojuangco

OUR TOWN'S beautiful new guard, Philip and Tecla Magsaysay, Peter and Stella Elizalde, and Anna Maria and Lei Segovia

LAWYER Rachel Lagorda Inquimboy-Dee Marie Prieto and husband, top golfer and businessman Jose Prieto, and Phoebe Bolino Buencamino

Issue of beautiful, chic women who joined in from Hong Kong.

They were led by Tatler's former regional editor, the stunning Elaine Tan Dee, Manila actress who set Hong Kong's gain, Shirley Miranzad and Bryan Hurtado, gorgeous Audrey Pualam Chiu, and one of Asia's most stylish women, statuesque Lanlicia Kay Yu.

Cocktails were held at the foyer of the ballroom. The women, in breathtaking gowns, and the gentlemen in black tie, the main event set in the night, were forever clicking their champagne flutes as Moet Chandon champagne, accented with Grand Marnier, Cognac Jacob's Chardonnay 2005 and Carpenter Draguito Sauvignon 2004 flowed, served by white-gloved waiters and waitresses.

The dinner setting in the grand Hotel Ballroom by brilliant southern florist and decorator Robert Muscatine took everyone's breath away. The sumptuous dinner was expertly prepared by executive chef Christophe Bassaine had the guests endlessly congratulating Philippine Tatler's publisher Irene Martel Francisco, dedicated editor in chief Aimee San Diego, Manila and society editor Maurice Arnache (as in, not), cyber queen GM Lynne Nolan and the rest of the hub-ub team for an unforgettable event, palangges.

## Encore

Entertainment was courtesy of the Concerto, so that also accompanied classical singer Leonard Dolor and Jennifer Ely in a few numbers. Robert Nolan, said the one-of-a-kind, crowns Venus Vargas Cleofas. They had the guests asking for more, more, more!

Total funds raised that evening from pledges, actual collections, as well as through an auction of a seven-day cruise for two on the six-star cruise ship Silversea is a destination of choice, courtesy of CDA Cruises and Silversea, was an awesome P3.6 million. The money went to Operation Smile. Pledges continued to pour in the Philippine Tatler office long after the ball, amongst.

Fully supporting the Philippine Tatler for this annual happening were the wonderful, generous major sponsors headed by Susan Infante, until, BMW, Citibank, Beverly Hills 6750, and Sara Lee.

The party really got rolling when the fabulous Spirit of '67 hit the bandstand and got the chic crowd off their seats and rocking the dance floor into a frenzy.

Now, dahlings, that's what a Tatler ball is all about.

# Grand couture showcase

GOINGS-ON

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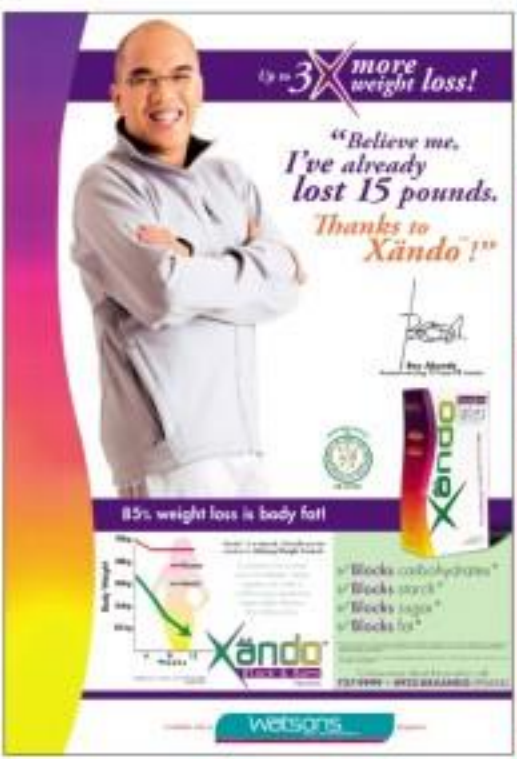

Janice de Belen, now a plus-size woman without apologies, is Maxine's endorser for its holiday collection

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# In the fullness of life

From page 03

And the "perfect" jeans. What more if you're a triple or quadruple X?

Maxine offers a jeans line with it on "Attention." Launched last June, Maxine denims promise minimal to no allowances. While the heavy ones find their part in the usual sweats, chances are, these pants are a bust or two larger and would require readjustments in length.

Everyone has a solution for this. "We have Bermuda shorts, cropped pants, capris, shanklggers. Most of the time, you'll find the right length for you [no matter what your height is]."

Maxine's bestsellers are dark washed boot leg jeans and khakis, all made of 60 percent stretchable fabric. Prices range from P600-P900.

And oh, they even have this season's "it" denims—yes, are skinny jeans! "If you can get away with it, why not?" says Enriquez.

Maxine has staples like dresses in lightweight muslin fabric, miniskirts, jackets and blazers. Its canvas-spandex casual line come in plain, graphic, embellished and embroidered, while the maroon tops for more formal occasions are made of stretch cotton.

**Bye bye, black**

The biggest fashion blunder of voluptuous ladies, says Enriquez, is wearing excessively big clothes, rendering them sack-like and shapeless.

"They always wanna hide everything, making them look way beyond their age."

The trick to finding the right size for the full figured: silhouettes.

Sonni Ong, Maxine designer and assistant brand manager, offers some tips: "Opt for basic monochromatic hues, do away with bright colors on the pieces you want to hide, practice individuality and have attitude."

Ong says Maxine basic pieces are funky and functional to help break the stereotype of "fat" women always dressed in black, and too dry to ask for that baby pink top.

Maxine has dark colored clothes, too, but the jacket pieces are so wearable, and the colors complement the Asian skin tones.

The clothing store's holiday collection is inspired by Hollywood and iconic videos. Ong says the nautical navy marks line for this season, so expect a lot of stripes, tops, navy blue and bottoms, laid-back rolled-up pants and jacket pockets.

Hope accessories in metallic silver and gold should break the monotony of the wardrobe. And wear a belt, says Ong. While most girls are afraid that a belt would cut them in half, it could balance an outfit if worn right, she explains.

TV Net. Janice de Belen is Maxine's endorser for the holiday collection. A single parent to five kids, De Belen embodies the Maxine woman—smart, determined and self-reliant. "She doesn't pretend to be somebody she's not," says Enriquez.

With 20 SM branches and the first stand-alone store to open at Ayala Triangle Gardens, Maxine is making its way to conquer large clothing hearts.

"Not yet, but we might," says Enriquez. "For now we want to prove that fashion is always loving your body and having confidence about it."

*E-mail the author at queen@inquirer.com.ph*

# LIFESTYLE

This new product line is non-irritating and doesn't leave you vulnerable to the sun

SMFYap, Michelle Chua, David Szeck, Mutya Crisostomo, Richard Clegg

## Skin anti-aging technology takes revolutionary spin

LIFE-STYLED
*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

DO YOU NOTICE BLOTCHES ON your cheekbones?

Did you know that just 23 years old, your skin ages considerably faster, and thus needs anti-aging regimen? In short, even the latest pampering is on the horizon for skincare aficionados—a generation that's a modest zero (and)...

We've always known that, as in hair care, radical progress is happening in skincare technology. But a visit to Pond's Institute just outside New York—the first time it was opened to media—made us realize how research on skin anti-aging products is at the heart of this revolution, and it is where it seems most competitive.

In the '90s, skin-whitening technology was the background. As this new millennium, the latest comes from years of research on how to revive the skin and stall its aging. If only one didn't know that, it took a decade or so to arrive at anti-aging technology a beauty expert could say it's a fast-breaking story.

Too many have noticed that, like fashion, beauty is now a specialized coverage with perhaps more complex and exciting developments than fashion itself.

Scientists at the institute led by Michael C. Dooney, global director research and development program for skincare, introduced the Pond's Age Miracle to be launched in Asia this month (Nov. 22 in Manila). It contains the breakthrough agent called Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA), which Pond's believes will change the face of skin anti-aging technology.

It is interesting that the product is focused on Asian women. As they age, women have two major concerns about skin—whitening and age spots. Among Asian women, research revealed that dark spots or blotches are a bigger concern. While it's often said (by an Asian) that Asian women don't age as fast as Caucasian women in the sense that they don't wrinkle up, datums, naturally exposed to greater sun, develop blotches and age spots. Our skin becomes uneven sooner.

Up until you're 23, your skin grows from baby-cells approximately every 30 days. Every day our skin sheds old cells on the surface, keeping it smooth. The inner layer, explains the (nurses's) literature, serves as a cushion filled with collagen, elastin and decorin, which are called "liquid youth." Baby cells and liquid (such) give your skin the glow.

However, after 25 years old, the skin's surface renews itself less often—40 days on the average. "Liquid youth is far less fluid, making skin saggy."

With CLA, the renewal cycle is reduced from 45 to 30 days. It claims that it helps boost skin renewal rate 23 percent faster.

### Shortcuts

Actually many women take the shortcut and resort to procedures such as micro-dermabrasion and chemical peels which are effective in removing old skin cells. It do Pond's or related laser treatment which has been so effective for my enlarged pores and pimple scars. I've avoided dermabrasion or chemical peels.)

However, when you do chemical peel, you can't be exposed to the sun because your skin is left vulnerable. But how do you avoid the inevitable pollution?

(CONTINUED)

JENNA Boyle and Mutya Crisostomo

FOOTBOT — BY BILLAMENO

A. LIPIN — BY ED ASEREN

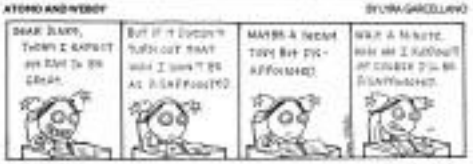
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEKNOTE — BY ELIZABETH CHONGUE

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANLILIO

BIRD MACHINE — BY HANAH ASEREN

MAKINGDRAMA — BY JOHNO TUJOD

TULOOK — BY PAPI LAND TATUM PALAMBRANG

SALAMIN — BY CHERWIN PEREZ

## DAILY CROSSWORD

## HOROSCOPE

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | 2 | | | | 5 | | |
| | | 8 | | 7 | | | | |
| 1 | 3 | | | | 5 | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | 7 | | |
| | 2 | | 9 | | | | 6 | |
| | | 6 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | 2 | | | | 1 | 4 |
| | | | | 1 | | 3 | | |
| | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

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| 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

# La Union showcases its best

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL AND THE Department of Tourism and Industry-Regional Office of La Union present a grand culture fair, the 10-30 of the Festival Supermall's Carousel Court. La Union Gov. Victor Ortega and his wife, Sun Consuelo City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, will open the fair today. It will feature antique furniture and home furnishings, holiday decorations, collectibles and recommended pastry, handwoven products, wood carvings, processed food, and the Super Kakan which uses recycled materials for fuel.

Meanwhile, Festival Supermall is hosting a three-day pre-Christmas sale from 17-19. Discounts of as much as 50 percent are being given by 600 stores, restaurants, specialty and service shops. The mall is open daily 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Festival Supermall is in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call 8505514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.ph.

**ANNIVERSARY BALL.** The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will celebrate its 25th anniversary with the theme "Tomorrow," on Nov. 21, at the Penthouse room of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The proceeds will go to FCCP's various beneficiaries.

**CLUB BAZAAR.** Lifestyle Relocation's glam bazaar "In the Limelight," Nov. 11-19 at the Rockwell Tent & Grass House, Rockwell Powerplant Mall. Call 0917-8555555.

**CONCERT.** St. Scholastica's College Manila's high school faculty will showcase their diverse talents in "Seasons of Love 2: Faith, Hope and Charity," Nov. 17, 7 p.m. and 1 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Hall. The concert is in line with the school's centennial celebration. Tickets are at P700 to be sold at the venues.

**REUNION.** Notre Dame High School Batch 1981 will hold its 40th reunion Nov. 25, 8 a.m. at the NDC Alumni Hall, Barangay Obrero, Pasig City. Call 64 56875, 8910006 or 8573893.

**ALUMNI HOMECOMING.** The St. Joseph Academy-La Concepcion College Alumni Association will hold its grand alumni homecoming on Nov. 26 at La Concepcion College Bautista-ibi, Concepcion, Tarlac. Online starts at 9 a.m. Call 0920111, 0919-6210021, 0919-6210022, 0917-6600462, 0919-6210023, 0919-6210024, 0917-8910020 and 0919-2068807. Log on to yahoo.com/sjaalumni@yahoo.com.

**REUNION.** All graduates of St. Paul's College, QC, High School Batch '80-sya invited to attend this batch reunion. The dinner-dance and Mega Reunion on Dec. 3, at Diliman Heights Condominium, 13 Granada St., corner Cuenca St., QC. Call

## GOINGS-ON

**SPECIAL PROMO.** Stressed, an all-natural dietary supplement designed to help the body relax and is a private citing wounds, is now available in leading drugstores including Watsons, LBC and South Star Drug. A special promo is available in the first 1,500 customers until Nov. 30. They can get a free Sleep and Soul Pack by visiting the http://stressed.blogspot.com, and narrating their sleeping problems and sleeping aids they used. E-mail inquiries to stressed@gmail.com.

**PHOTO.** Power Plant Mall's "Bring Home a Memories" promo is ongoing until Jan. 14, 2007. Shop and enjoy a brand-new Mercedes Benz B Class worth 2.3 million. It minimum single receipt purchase of P2,000 is only established at Power Plant Mall. Redeem Information Center in the Mezzanine. Taxes, duties, plus minimum single receipt of P2,000 to get one raffle coupon. Other prizes include free Samsung 32-inch LCD TV sets worth P 100,000 each and two Blue Book Black consulate sets worth P 1,000,000 each. Gift certificates worth P1,000 each will be available at the Customer Exit Desk, 8/F., until Dec. 1. Call 8881122.

**BAZAAR.** GMA Kapuso Network holds the Sixth Food Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping Expo, Nov. 24-26 and Dec. 29-31, at the World Trade Center. Food Bazaar with the over 100 products, fashion items, holiday food gifts, Christmas decor, novelty items, rare entertainment pieces. Special diners and kids events have been lineup, including gourmet diners and storytelling sessions, a Mini Art Class and Mini Art Contest by Lia Sherbedgian. The MagicLand the Art Pixel Group for kids. The entrance fee benefits the GMA Kapuso foundation. Bandaysang mga Bayani Foundation and Bonifacio Ministrantes of Assumption Foundation. Call 981-9004, 981-8282 or e-mail us@gmfbi.net.

**CLUB BIZZ.** Rosalie Kent, a medical student, will be presented to the society of Club Bukaneks, Nov. 18, at its annual charity gala at the ballroom of Sofitel Philippine Plaza. She is the daughter of businessman Peter to Racial and dermatologist Dr. Isabel Lopez-Kent. Her gown is designed by Raja Laurel. The band, "Hyna," marks Bacolod's 18th anniversary with a tribute to Filipino jewelry makers. The event will feature

an exhibit of distinctive jewelry pieces designed and handcrafted by talented Pinoy jewelers like Armi Hipe, an artist as an extension of original paintings. Dance director Rodjing Banaa will present a new choreography for the traditional

Agusto. Proceeds of this year's celebration will go to Club Biz-Bacolod's scholarship program for indigent Bacolod-ay youth, its medical missions, and the club's 18-house Bahandi Kalinga community in Angat.


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# November boutique specials

CHARLISSA Cadiwes, the Iyla-Silvia mom, does the fashion coordinates and accessories.

**ITS-BITSE BOUTIQUE** invites you to its ongoing inventory clearance sale until Nov. 30.

Enjoy 30- to 70-percent off on Elie Tahari, Citizens of Humanity, Earnest Sewn, Current Elliott, Velvet by Graham & Spencer, Vince, Helmut Sewn, Current Elliott, Rock & Republic, Miss Me and more luxurious brands.

Iyla-Silvia boutique sells sumptuous and exclusive merchandise from Brazil, France, Italy and the US. Established by Jess Delgado in October 2004, the boutique has become a requisite shopping destination, among Manila's fashionistas for its cutting-edge items.

Over the past five years, Iyla-Silvia has been recognized locally and internationally by the likes of the South China Morning Post Magazine, which hailed it as Manila's "Fashion Mecca," and Harper's Bazaar Singapore, which called it "The opinion shot of the hopelessly fashionable." Website: www.superbrant.com

Now the boutique is at 1750 Antonio St., Makati, Manila and is open Mondays-Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Call 5328592 or visit www.iyla-silvia.com.


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# Skin anti-aging . . .

From page 6/4

Pond's CEA technology, developed after nine years with research on human cancers, has the edge to this, in that it is non-irritating. Its seven-day regimen doesn't leave your skin that vulnerable. In short, it's lifestyle-friendly.

This latest technology is sourced from a natural, non-irritating ingredient—sunflower seed oil, prevalent in India and China where it's used in various ways—as herbal medicine, cooking oil, food or fabric softer.

The Pond's Age Miracle is a seven-day regimen involving serum, cream, toner, an eye cream. Since it doubles you from the sun, it actually doesn't hamper your lifestyle. What's unique is that it comes with a "proof kit" that takes an imprint of your wrinkled skin and lets you monitor the progress.

The mall used the proof kit on us in the Pond's barriers...and I'm monitoring my skin this next week. (It's a user of Pond's Body Defense, which has really worked for me.)

The launch is a big spread in Fairmall, Connecticut, bearing Unilever's state-of-the-art laboratories. It was actually quite an experience to see this growing an acre.

Unilever spends P320 million on research and development a year, P30 million on consumer research. That's how big and vibrant the beauty and personal care industry is. It says the Pond's company to do as it needs ready or forward on anti-aging technology, and the first to do global complexion snapping.

The brand-new itself was opened in 1846. Pond's, now 150 years old, was first sold out of a horse-drawn carriage in 1846. Our generation grew up using Pond's cold cream, and we did our mamas, to cleanse our face and as a base on overnight regimen.

Now our daughters are going beyond cleansing. They're on an anti-aging regimen—at 25.

Recently, the women I know who have clear complexions started their regimen in their teens.

### Anna Bayle

In New York, we sat down with Filipina supermodel Anna Bayle. And last September, the Wall Street Journal wrote up Anna as the Filipina who reached supermodel status in the 1980s.

Anna still makes heads turn, grows her 5'10 frame, long silky black hair that's now wavy, and her watery complexion. She still lives in New York. Now that her son Gallian is 9, she's ready to hop on the fashion bus again.

Years ago, she launched her Anna Bayle lipstick, which went from Harvey's to online selling (you should try the Anna Bayle Rhaya shade). But since she chose to finance it herself, she wasn't really keen on expanding it.

Now Anna has in the works a TV show. She's even in consultation with Rita Khrueh, who also lives in NY. (Rita, would you believe, has a boy-book deal with her publisher. She's working on a thriller.)

The year 2007 might just be another Anna Bayle year.

bench/
made for each other
Love
scents by richard&lucy

Contributing editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

# LIFESTY

# BEAUTY

## Color me infinite

The 48 shades of Shu Uemura's Rouge Unlimited flatter every skin tone and complexion

THE SEARCH FOR THE perfect, universal red lipstick has always been every woman's and cosmetic brand's dream.

Shu Uemura believes it has finally found the answer with Rouge Unlimited, its newest lipstick line.

Inspired by Kabuki-za, the Japanese power known for capturing the most vivid kind of red in his porcelain outfit, Shu Uemura has patented pigments that bring out intense colors and a wide shade

COLOR 02

DIRECTION GIGI GONZALEZ-USON
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# Color me infinite

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KITRA BY CLAIRE SEELIN-DIXMOND OF SHU UEMURA
USING ROUGE UNLIMITED WHITE 001, BLACK 099 & WINE 191
MODEL: MIKI SALDANA OF CALGARRY'S

ICARDY BY RICKEY SEE OF SHU UEMURA USING
ROUGE UNLIMITED BLUE 080, YELLOW 010 & PINK 158
MODEL: RHANDA FERNANDEZ

**Win! Win! Win!**

Your own exclusive Rouge Unlimited. It could be of the solid metallic case, plus an all-in-1 Rouge in the shade of your choice. The bold three will be limited edition and will be available in a limited edition only while quantities last.

Recharge your lips impressive 45 shades handpicked by Ms. Shu Uemura himself, Rouge Unlimited's range flatters every skin tone and complexion, helping to reveal every woman's unique beauty. Its three advanced film systems even protect from the sun, and to show every woman that she can be her own artist, seven mini shades have been formulated that can be mixed, layered and matched freely so everyone can create her own custom-blended, custom-fit shade.

Here, she like Toronto Makeup team interprets the many different ways to Rouge Unlimited. As Uemura himself says, "Colors are like personalities, they are infinite."

With Rouge Unlimited, the possibilities definitely are!

**Choosing a lip color**

Depending on the occasion and what you want to achieve, lipstick can be subtle, fiery or vampy.

Step 1: Choose according your skin tone. The color should complement the natural shade of your lips and skin. If you are fair, pink-toned colors (lippies with a little orange undertone are actually made for you. Colors that flatter dark skinned women would be plums, berry shades and deep reds. Darker and browner works best for those who have olive skin.

Step 2: Check the mirror. During the day, mauves and sheer shades would be a good pick. As the day passes the darker you can go. After adding some lip gloss that will add extra volume or gloss adds gloss over your lip shade will be the easiest way to go from day to night.

Step 3: Do the rounds. Trying different shades at the mall is worth it and as much fun. Take advantage of the consumers. It's at least you know you made the right purchase.

# 5 ways to beautify for the holidays

By Mariel Chua
Contributor

THERE'S NO POINT in completing that gift list and all those holiday chores if, in the end, you look pale, washed out, and tired.

You can almost feel it. A slight-to-zombie death on some brains, the slow onset of pre-holiday mask wide-eyes, can shadows crashing up hiding brief process.

Christmas—and the merriment that surrounds it—is making its way to our hearts, and the prospect of a future paycheck in December gets even the most cynical of us just a little bit more excited.

Before getting mistranscribed with a million things to do, presents to wrap or plane tickets to book, read on for the five things you need to get your face, body, and beauty buzz ready for the crazy season ahead.

**Revive, review, renew**

Your makeup stash, that is. Get rid of old, cakey, discolored powder, foundations, and those lone guys for anything that smells funky or that has been there since Sex & The City Season 3. Now's the time to stash brushes, clean sponges, acquire fresh beauty buys, and even drop for a new bday kit—for two reasons: One, you could be up to one shades lighter than last summer, so what worked for you post-Xmas may make you look too orange or pink now. Two, pending your prenging mesh free allows you to plan your subsequent gift-shopping rewards rainbow feeling deprived (no you won't max out your credit card at the last minute in an attempt to "reward" yourself).

Come December's string of parties, you'll be proud to fabulously bumble for that shiny new powder compact inside an equally fabulous makeup bag. Try Ardene Bronzing Powder Compact, P1,858.75, and Guerlain Divine Pressed Powder, P4,000.

**Join the fitness bandwagon**

You've probably promising off that threat for shoes and more shoes, so why not throw in new trainers and a gym membership? Players like the Pinnacle Point, Bed Corner, and Gold's Gym are revving up their promo and marketing moves to get old and new clients the best deals. Uniting and elevated to the endorphin rush from exercise now gears you up for Noche Buena, and boosts your chances of picking up more recommendations sound choices at the dance table.

And if you do let loose and indulge (it's the holidays, after all), having a fitness fallback slash activity (Zumba—is the form of a privacy membership) will make it easier for you to ditch the guilt and get back in shape come January.

**Go new age and high tech on your body**

Yes! if sweating it out on a treadmill isn't exactly your thing, try an outdoor or alternative activity that will get your blood flowing: snowshoe thrills, martial blades, free why so many are hooked on barbarous (sexy legs, sculpted easy cheeks), Ultimate Fitness Chocolate Affair, and Capoeira (Brazilian dance).

Also, watch out for Cosmo's "Time Your Power" story in the November issue featuring easy-to-follow and effective pinoch-perfecting moves. If you're always looking for new forms of exercise, consider the latest wave of the-art body-shaping procedures available.

There are three noteworthy treatments: Master Francois's Ultra shape, which makes use of ultrasound technology to "melt fat"; Gateway's Technilipo, a cellulite-smoothing, muscle-stimulating procedure that uses micro-cannel to firm up saggy spots; and Swissbel's Lipoline, which features a six-in-one fat-zapping trio of radio frequency, cupping, infrared light, and mechanical traction using the Vela Smooth system. These procedures are quite expensive, but are smart alternatives to traditional invasive surgeries.

**Get professional pampering**

Now that the year is winding down to welcome the hectic July months, what better way to de-stress and decompress than to head to a top spa (or spas)? Here are three new beauty stops to satisfy your craving for coddling:

Serene Salon & Makeup Bar (The Courtyard, 26 Sgt. Esguerra St., South Triangle QC. Call 928-5000 or 0917-5375863.) boasts of top-notch hair care and treatments, pro makeup moves, and expert mani-pedis, all in its cozy red and white interiors designed by Tina Chua Amerolia.

Hands Dazzle Salon for Hair & Beauty (G/F Fedorilla 3 Condominium, 109 Visda St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 848-2186 and 848-2666.) is back pedicure (Philip Kiss's new home). Check out the classic cuts, edgy shapes, and trademark color pencils that instantly breathe life into dull locks.

On the East side, area Urban Salon's latest branch (L/F Body Bonanza, Bahamanza Marcos Xma. Marcos Highway, Pasig City. Call 681-2187), gives the same value-for-your money expert service, at a bigger, posher location. Book your appointments early to avoid the rush.

If you do pop in this month, avail of each salon's special promos and discounted rates!

**Learn the new beauty rules**

Classics are classics in the world of fashion and beauty. But adding new tricks to your repertoire some you in more ways than one. Have such your daily beauty regimen: It's all about having a deep-smooth complexion with the help of excellent skincare choices and correct makeup (picks for fair, peaches for olive-skinned, warm cinnamon for mestizas).

While it's cool to blow cash on gorgeous makeup, investing on smart skincare products ensures a head need to erase that mask makeup! Try the new Fresh's Age Solution Idle Renewal Facial Foam, P579, and the rest of the recently-launched anti-aging line. Now learning hubs like the Klein-Anderson (call 631-6280) and Cezar for aesthetic foodies (formerly 82 Training Center. Call 895-1661 loc 113; 897-0300) are great go-to places for learning your hair and makeup know-how.

And of course, a great read like Cosmo cover your holiday and all your fashion, beauty, lifestyle, and relationship concerns.

**Breathe deeply, channel beauty!**

Hollywood sensation Lindsay Lohan recently got a white tattoo on her wrist that says 'breathe.' And more's the time to follow suit and do as the yogis do.

Inhale and exhale deeply. Good oxygen flow promotes a general sense of well-being, better mood levels, and a rejuvenated body which translates to looking amazing on the outside. (Watch your skin glow as you breeze through the chaos.)

Remember: Tis the season to enjoy and be merry. There's no point in completing that gift list and all those holiday chores if, in the end, you look pale, washed out, and tired. Cheers to an extra-beautiful you this Christmas season, and beyond!

BOOTS Salon & Makeup Bar

BEAUTY! in preparation for the holidays

POND'S age solution

SHISEIDO Bronzing Powder Compact

# Scent of a woman

Lucy Torres Gomez debuts a new line of divine fragrances under Bench

By Agnes-Sherrie Sadhwani

BENCH HAS CONCOCTED a new set of fragrances that capture the essence of Lucy Torres-Gomez. Together with Richard Gomez, Bench created Lucy's signature scent called "Love," a lightly romantic scent that evokes Richard's favorite images of Lucy: Walking hand in hand with Johnoy on the beach, applying lipstick, smiling prettily.

"Love," just like Richard's perception of Lucy, is a warm, sweet and loving scent.

But just as Lucy's look and fashion choices change depending on her moods, her two other scents, "Remember" and "Bravo," are totally different fragrances that still capture her core personality. "Remember" is a very light scent that will tease and captivate, while "Bravo" is a stronger scent that, like its name, proves to be bolder.

Lucy, too, has created a signature scent for her husband, "Conquer" evokes Richard's strong personality, its manly, fine notes reflecting his competitive side. The second in the fragrances, "Recharge" and "Refresh," reflect his love for nature and the things he treasures most.

To hear the story of how Richard and Lucy came up with scents for each other is like hearing their love story from a different perspective. Bench's new regime for this new fragrance line captivates it all: "Made by each other."

Bench Fragrances are available at all Bench stores. Each "Love & Conquer Made for Each Other" duo of boxed scents of Lucy and Richard's fragrances on Friday, Nov. 17 at the ACTIVITY CENTER, Glorietta, at 6 p.m.

LUCY'S signature scent, "Love" captures the Lucy-that Richard knows so intimately

# Draw the line

AFTER

By Karla Chan
Contributor

A DASH OF COLored liner is fantastic for instant attraction and attraction. Vibrant lines can turn heads, while softer tones attract more subtle notice.

Liners are not confined to blacks and browns. A touch of green can instantly open up the eyes, blue and purple can soften the features while blue can instantly thaw them.

There are different types and ways of lining our eyes. Choose are those applicable or other than pencils. Their think liners and will remove make them easy to blend with fingers. Pencils are the easiest to use. Liners can be fine or bold. Felt-tipped liners offer the benefits of liquid, but their rigid tip pleasure provides more control than a fine brush.

For beginners, start with pencil liners and practice until you get the hang of it. Once you have mastered the pencil, you can switch to crayons and try to experiment with textures and colors. If you feel you are already an expert, the last stage would be for liquid liners.

1. It is very important that the area around the eyes are clean and even-toned with the rest of your face. Use foundation that is close to your skin tone. Concealer to conceal any dark circles or blemishes. Apply a little concealer on the top, inner corner and bottom of your eye and blend it with your fingertip.

2. Brush your eyebrows into place using a spoolie brush. Fill in sparse areas with a brow pencil and set them with clear or tinted brow gel.

3. Before you begin, make sure your pencil is well sharpened. Then starting at the outer corner and working in words, draw a bold line across your upper lid. Repeat the process with a finer line along your lower lash line, then connect the top and bottom lines at both the inner and outer corners of your eye.

If you have oily eye shadows, you can use them as your liner. Using a liner brush, wet the tip of the brush with a little water and carefully line the rims with the eye shadow that you have. Blend it with your finger or a cotton bud. A good palette to try is the Eye Shadow in Shading Kit. You can choose between four different vibrant and vibrant shades.

4. A fresh pink gloss will complement a colored liner. Try Max Factor Hollywood Wear Glossimer in true pearls.

BEFORE

# Go for glamour

AT THREE O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON, YOU'LL WANT TO make a major eye affair with your makeup. It's a big night and? Under artificial light or by moonlight or night, makeup can be more vivid and dramatic. Colors can be darker and shades can appear more daring. Shaft mascara or even false lashes is a must. You want your face to be mysterious and glamorous. Night invites fantasy and it's the time to play with your looks!

1. Apply eye cream and moisturizer.

2. Apply foundation, which can be heavier for evening. Choose one with more coverage and oil free. Try Marina Oil-free powder. Oil-free powder foundation will give you more ease to enjoy and less time to touch.

3. Sweep a smoky dark brown eye shadow over your entire lid and blend it carefully into the crease. Apply a little of the same eye shadow under your lower lashes to accentuate the shape of your eyes. This will give a balance look to your eye makeup.

4. Whereas black eyeliner is usually not severe for harsh daylight, it's perfect to give lash artists a designed in heaven in a softer light. Using a pencil, carefully draw a fine line above and below your lashes.

5. To contrast the dark and smoky look on your eyelids, sweep a pearlized ivory shadow over your brow bones for a wide eyed look. Apply a little at a time, building up the effect gradually. Complete the look with two coats of black mascara.

6. Tawny pastels or bronzing powder is ideal for this look, as this won't compete with the rest of your makeup. Sweep it over your cheekbones, blending away the edges into your hairline. Pendragon Shimmer in Golden Glow is a good try.

7. Keeping the lips neutral is the usual suspects in line today not wearing elaborate color? An orange red lipstick would complement this look. Maybelline Watershine in Coral Glow is perfect for this look!

AFTER

BEFORE

E-mail the author at lc_ray-ball@yahoo.com

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SO MANY TEMPTATION
No one can resist the many temptations of this island lifestyle, especially when you see the price. At Antel Grand Village, you can own a lot for as low as P6,700! Lots range from 90 sqm. to 300 sqm. What's more, there are no restrictions here, not any downpayment required.
Homes and lot packages are also available. You can choose from three different home models that evoke Asian contemporary design with windows, spacious living area and a lanai.
THE ISLAND WITHIN REACH
While living in the community pulses you from the city's hustle and bustle, access to major destinations is not a problem. Antel Grand Village is strategically located between Kawit and General Trias, Cavite, and just a few minutes away from the busiest industrial zone of Cavite Export Zone Authority. With the new R-4 expressway, this island community will be 15 minutes away from the Mall of Asia in Macapagal Boulevard. And the Alabang Town Center will also be 30 minutes away through the new Daang Hari road.
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# LIFESTYLE

Premium brand La Prairie introduces a new anti-aging and skin-brightening line

## The skinny on skin luxury

By Cherie T. Mariñ

THE RICH COMPRISE A VERY tiny percentage of the Philippine population. However small, though, this segment persuades luxury skincare brands to such an extent that high-end beauty manufacturers find the country an exciting market.

When skincare brands like the Swiss company La Prairie introduces a new product, it's anticipated to fly off the shelves, according to Sunsuy Bobby Jo Silva. Thus, it's not unusual for Rustan's to hold off on the promotion until after the full stock arrives. Otherwise, the counter gets inundated with eager customers clamoring for the stuff.

We're talking of any pots of cream that cost

Dee Figuera said. In the pursuit of eternal youth, price is an insignificant factor for those who search for it.

In Japan, according to Hemmi Ide, manager and therapist of Salon de La Prairie in Tokyo, the most requested service is the Caviar Facial, which is also the most expensive at about $250 for a 90-minute procedure. It uses the brand's famed Skin Caviar line, which essentially are


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Sunday, 28th Jan 2007 (2pm to 7pm)

COLE HAAN IS BRING-ing with good tidings this season. It has a new president in the person of high-end retail exec Jason Sosnis, and an exciting new logo. It has also won some prestigious awards from respected trade publications like Designers of the Year from NineWestFerrer and ACE Designers of the Year.

Nonetheless, in a recent luncheon, also cited Cole Haan's Air Field Oxford with Nike Air Technology as its Good Life Section.

And then, its Fall/Holiday 2006 Collection was recently launched in Manila, highlighted by a luncheon show with past winners of Manila's Pret Lavender modelling the collection. They were Maureen Santos, Daniela Stanley, Cecilia Marquez, Krista Kleiddle and Rumiko Enrijo. Modelling Cole Haan's men's shoes were Mayko Morales and Justin Bautista.

The Manila launch reflected the brand's romantic theme for the season, as demonstrated by fashion director Michael Lim and noted floral artist Robert Blancaflor. Presented were Cole Haan's high-end collection, the casual Core Collection, the best-selling comfort-plus Town Air line with Nike Air Technology and the hippy C-Series.

Cole Haan is available at Cole Haan stores at Rockwell, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 4 and selected Watsons outlets.

KRIZIA, whose entire collection was showcased at the Milan Fashion Week, has designed a bridal gown exclusively for the show.

MISS Bryce Collection at the Milan Fashion Week

## An Italian fashion show in Manila

AN ITALIAN-PRODUCED Fall/RTW show will be presented Nov. 24, 8:30 p.m., at the Lounge down at The Podium.

The show, "La Sposa Luxe" (The Secular Bride), will feature clothes made and designed by some famous Italian designers and students of the houses. Academia di Belle Arti Milano (Milan School of Fashion).

A joint project of The Podium, Italian Embassy, Ateneo Davao Alighieri Manila, Malta and Singapore Airlines, it is part of the ongoing fashion month celebration in Manila and the mall's Shop Your Way to Milan promotion with SIA.

The show is spread by the models with bride, wear shows earlier this year in Milan.

The first part features six bridal gowns by renowned designers Rina Pavani, Rosetta Orsini, Ted Baron, Pupi Solari, Krizia, Corinne Bertrand, Frankie Morello, Thomas Chopping. Annapurna Lavani and Rosa Bernardi.

Florani's style is to create harmony with the spirit of the "Dio"—nonchalance and carefree, solemn, and unique.

Designers, who worked alongside Vivienne Westwood, is currently an accessories designer.

Barye pioneered in menswear in the archives of both Gucci and Prada, and currently designs athletic wear for Puma.

Pupi Solari has grown from a small retail store selling children's wear to one recognized for its women's wear.

Krizia fashion is adaptable to a lifestyle, situation, or cultural revolution, while still maintaining a feminine touch. The soul and creator of Krizia, Mariuccia Mandelli, believes "every woman should dress as she pleases as long as she wears what becomes her."

Gustavo Halmond is a brand on the horizon of sweet gentle fashion, creating elegance between minimalism and eclectic gauze with the utmost touch.

Morello is a line that highlights the eclectic encounter between Maurizio Modena and Pierbattista Cigliuti. Present in the best boutiques of the world, as well as in prestigious fashion magazines, the brand is loved by many well-known international celebrities.

Chiappa has worked for Thierry Mugler and John Galliano, and has since expanded his experience from trend forecasting to publication, all of which are translated to fashion.

Lancati, who has collaborated with Ferre and Iceberg, opened her studio in 2002. She opened a prestigious bridal store in the streets of Milan in 1996.

Bonti Dessorelli is a famed architect who crosses the fashion frontier by creating clothes for perspective buyer until Autumn/Fashion term, Bonti.

The second phase features avant-garde designs of third- and fourth-year students of the Academia and Bonti Design of Moda, interpreting the theme Integration, Immigration, Integration.

Medea Florin were Jeffy Anne Barbara, who is now donning the shoes. A bomb will be open in The Podium Nov. 23-25 so people can know more about Malta.

DESIGNER Rita Florani

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# Back-to-basics holidays

THIS SEASON, FASHION FOLLOWERS dressing out the loud printed tops from your closet and bringing in the basics. Forget that top of greens, reds and yellows that you've been thinking of wearing for your annual Christmas get together. Get black instead, or a classy layered ensemble of white shirt and spaghetti strapped pink tank top. It's just too loud, exudes a mature outlook and spells fun-tastician.

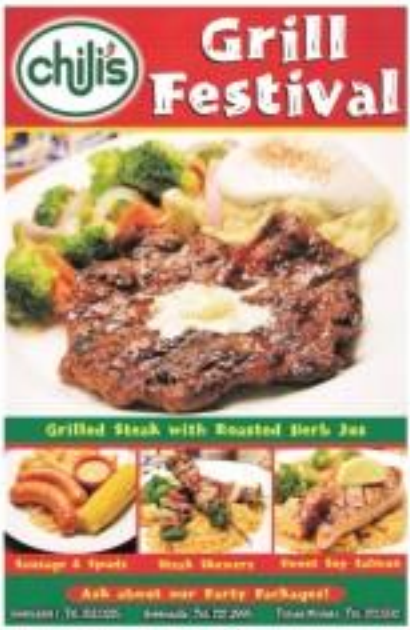
Black has never gone out of style, and the color gets dressier when all dressed to embrace duty. Tie flirty with black lace threaded through an embroidered bodice, meeting in the middle where a camisa bows in tandem.

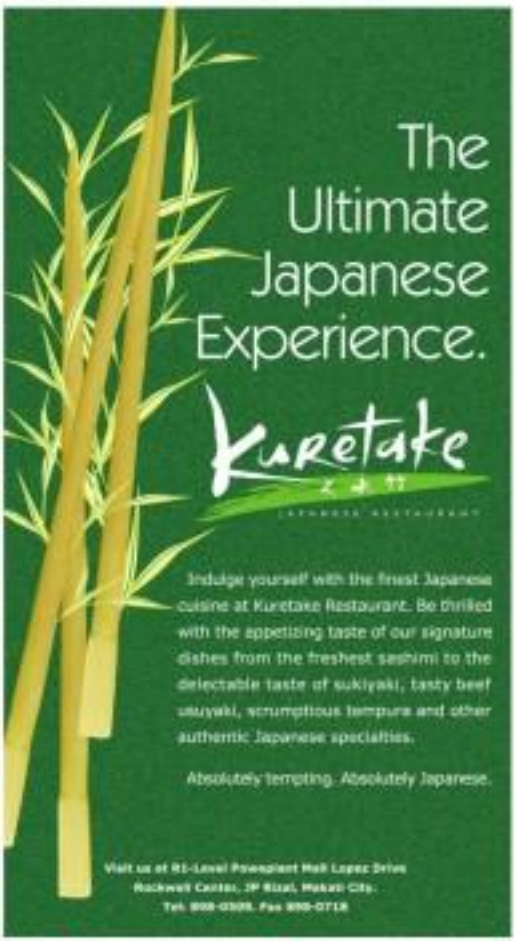
Are you a skeptic of black on black? It's time to cast that "unwearables" thought from your mind. Silky vibrant lace on black cotton gives a whole new level to sensuous. Include pairs on all-set ready to add whole new excitement to the look. Or, pursuers it with a silver necklace & fun shirt.

Let's not forget that opposite colors draw out the best of both. Black on white, white on black, either way you play with them. Our president like same pleasing look. Blend match this-n-that suit, and to dress your plentiful personality in the freshest way.

Kashieo's resident shopper Georgina Mikoto told the style star who can pull together all these different looks. With Kashieo's help, you too can be as gorgeous and fun-loving as Georgina.

Head off to the nearest Kashieo boutique in any of the following malls: shabang Town Center, Shoemita, Gateway, The Podium, The Power Plant Mall, Robinson's Place Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, SM Megamall, SM Cubberley Pampanga, SM Centerpoint, SM Mall of Asia, SM Manila, SM North Edsa, SM San Lazaro, SM Southmall and SM Sta. Rosa. Visit www.kashieo.com.

# The skinny on skin luxury

From page F1

products derived from caviar and other marine proteins, one of which is a pot of tiny golden beads akin to the fish egg.

"There's something about [the human psyche] that makes us feel good about surrounding ourselves in a certain image," said C. Victoria Rant, La Prairie's vice president for international marketing. "It's like having a dream. You know you can get a similar dress elsewhere for a lot less, but buying [designer] that is different feel. You know it's something special."

But Rant said La Prairie's emphasis is themed, Shangri-La and Colbert isn't all about the image. Many years are devoted into research and product development by its laboratories in Switzerland before any item is approved for purchase. A product doesn't hit the shelf until after it gets a very high approval rate from test users, usually 60-80 persons.

This is what makes specialized brands like La Prairie different from mass market products, Dr. Rhea added. Pleasing is confined, as a quick look isn't the goal.

C. VICTORIA Rant

HARUMI Ito

## Specific antidote

On her recent visit, Ito introduced a new anti-aging and skin-brightening line that she said is one's armor against the ravages of environment and other external aggressors. Each of the products is a "specific antidote" to a particular skin condition, and touted to enhance the skin's natural function against aging and environment.

The Cellular Anti-Spot Brightening Serum P9,900) is said to be more than a cosmetic whitener with its high concentration of Vitamin C that suppresses the production of melanin, thereby reducing discoloration and the appearance of dark spots. This light-textured is complemented with the Cellular Intensive Anti-Wrinkle Anti-Spot Cream (P12,450), a rich night cream that's said to restore the skin's natural repair process. It targets age spots and discolorations with a plant-derived brightening complex.

There's also the Anti-aging Emulsion SPF 30 (P10,200), which tackles skin's so-called "chronic silent inflammation" caused by environment to the sun and pollution. It's said to enhance collagen production and "plumps" the skin, reducing expression lines. It also enhances skin's natural exfoliation process. It has sun protection in broad spectrum.

Paired with this is the Anti-aging Eye Cream SPF 15 (P9,300) that combats redness and dehydration around the eye area. A collagen production enhancer, this cream diminishes under-eye puffiness and restores the firmness of the delicate skin around the eyes.

Both these anti-aging products have high concentrations of Vitamins C and E. As ye know bic Apply the cream only on the affected areas, not directly under the lower lash line, massaging very gently to promote skin circulation. Impaired blood circulation around the eye area causes the dark circles.

A soothing treatment to sun and reel skin can be found in the Cellular Nurturing System. When skin is stressed it tends to get red and blotchy, especially after a cosmetic procedure like chemical peels, facelifts or lasers. Sensitive skin types also suffer from redness problems.

The Cellular Nurturing Complex does that now (P7,450) in a two-in-one treatment product consisting of a serum and a balm. The serum, served on the frosted bottom jar, is applied all over the face, and has "self-heal" to the fast-aid skin's natural repair process.

The emollient balm, in a protected top over the serum's bottle, is intended for areas that are seriously stressed and inflamed. Suited for daily use, meanwhile, is the Nurturing Cream Anti-Redness (P12,800), which counteracts dryness and redness of sensitive skin. The line would to enhance the results of a ten-minute procedure.

Both said skincare can get confusing, what with the many products being used by many, even from La Prairie's line alone. Women also tend to leave the products they use, but "not encourage that," she said. "If you're bored to contain items from another line, that's no problem. You can use La Prairie with any other brand."

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WITH HEALTH-ENHANCING HERBOLOGICS up stand, never again will you have to suffer painful, cracked or chapped lips.

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The unique formula is suited for all skin types and is fragrance free, dermatologist, sensitivity and allergy tested. Part of BeautiControl's specialty at-home spa product line, the Hydrate Lip Spa Set and other skin and body-care treatments are demonstrated through the Spa Escape Pajama Party.

This is in the tradition of Tupperware's highly successful party system which has been a global success. The BeautiControl product line is offered under the Tupperware Brands umbrella, the only direct-selling company that offers two world-renowned brands, giving consumers more choices on innovative products that make a better life and opportunities that generate more income.

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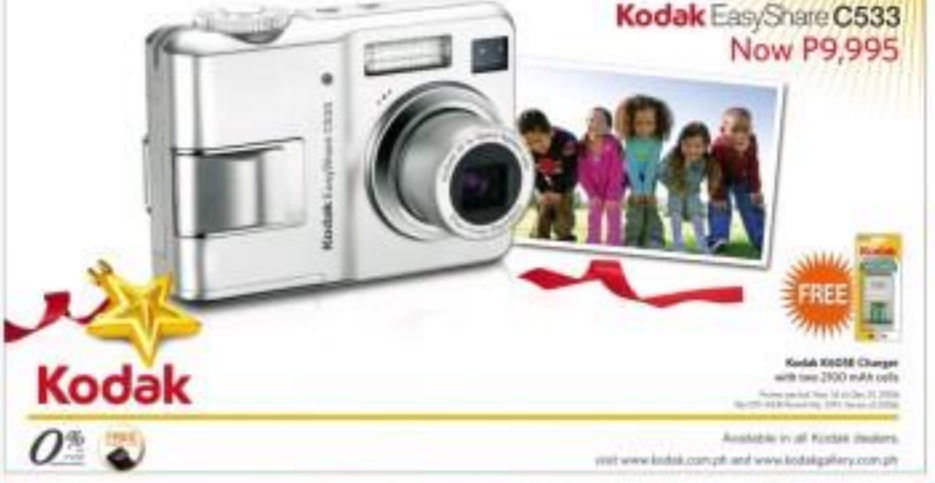

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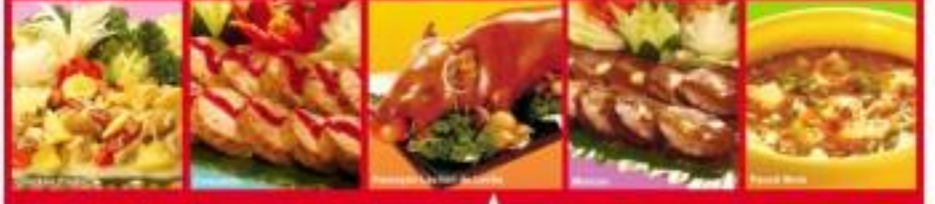

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NO LEFT OVER BUFFET FOOD AND SET

NO SERVICE CHARGE

LIFESTYLE

FASHION

# Androgynous chic

In Anne Klein's new collection, sleek and structured meets feminine and flirty

PRINTED A-line blazer, red cardigan in satin slim jean, chain necklace, striped bangle, all by Anne Klein

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FROM THE MOment style icons Marlene Dietrich and Katharine Hepburn donned sharp and androgynous yet surprising-ly alluring portraits, countless versions of menswear-inspired clothing for women have appeared in the collections of different designers these past few decades.

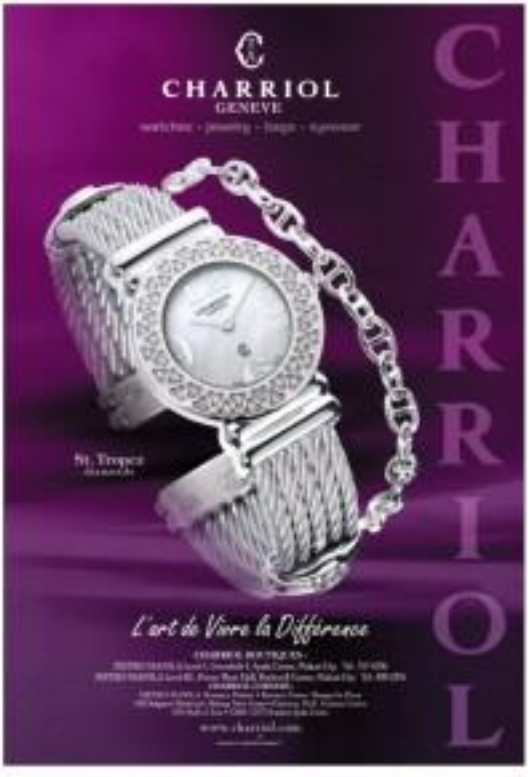
For Fall 2006, Anne Klein is once again espousing a look that communicates vintage androgyny—those perfect blends of yin and yang with an inviting and discreetly flirtatious take.

Sleek, leathers and a strong sense of tailoring bring out a strong masculine edge in ensemble pieces that are also replete with feminine prints, lace-over hem, and touches of red and/or ipecking modernizes a boundoir's cool, for instance) that temper the masculinity.

Versatility is the name of the game as one flits from boardroom to cocktails. Anne Klein provides fashionable options such as navy black slim stretch pants matched with a rigidly tailored buttoned-

ANDROGYNOUS CHIC

MIXED ensemble of tailored blazer, checkered trousers, old rose and beige knee sweater, chain necklace, all by Anne Klein.



MAGDA gown/gloves/shoes, leather sweetheart bodice with crystal trim, gold hoop earrings, gold crystal bangle, all by Anna Rhin

# Androgynous chic

BLACK pinstripe tuxedo-inspired pantsuit, cropped bustier, hoop earrings, all by Anna Rhin

GRAY knit metallic effect boat-neck dress, black shoes with pearls, all by Anna Rhin

From page B1

down shirt. Or a tank top with an ultra-short black tuxedo jacket with luxurious lace and satin underlay underneath a bejeweled sequin vest.

Sleek and structured meets feminine and flirty. Bold color meets neutral hues. Rich textures mold with an interesting range of prints.

Somebody's women it best dishing out orders for her team of gang-be-action warriors or flirtatiously throwing her head back for the kitchen in the next table. Just drink of desire it. Send, she can be the naughty and the damsel all at once. It's definitely OK even in this one-do—to be both.

*E-mail the author at* ateshim@inquirer.com.ph

**Photography Jason Tolentino**
**Styling Pam Quiñones**
**Model Jolena Duncan of Look Models Philippines**
**Hair Raymond Santiago**
**Makeup Bobbi Peter's**
**Clothes Anna Rhin**
**Shot on location at Segunda Mano Boutique in Makati Cinema Square**
**Special thanks to Carina Arciaga**

[illegible]

## If the shoe fits

Fashion boots have something to look forward to this season. Renowned designer and former Shanghai Tang creative director Daniel Kaufmann will be opening a high-end shoe boutique called Kaufmann Boutique in Forbes on Dec. 8.

Kaufmann, fan of designer footwear, considers his pair of stunning and visually stimulating are his clothing designs. His shoe collection is modern with an artisanal feel, and definitely not the usual run-of-the-mill mass-market. Instead, the designer plays around with different materials and treatments for a younger feel.

## FASHION BUZZ

**Hot, haute, hot news!**

## Go, Pacman, go!

Filipinos the world over will definitely be united for Manny Pacquiao when he gets master p moves with his southpaw fists Saturday (Sunday, Nov. 19, in a show of support, Pacquiao dedicated one per their hands on Nike T-shirts featuring some other than Herman himself. Considering as Nike shoots worldwide for the Philippines, Pacquiao's fans, whether in the Philippines home to now endearing.

Here's a candid shot of Pacquiao in the L.A. apartment, holding aloft Egotism's signed T-shirt (Headed to Lenard Gomez's. Check out the red Nike boxing shoes right behind Pacquiao. They're a special pair made for Pacman.

## Plan ahead

Plan ahead in style with Belle de Jour, a 2007 poster planner that promotes women empowerment. The team here pleases every a check-list of affirmations and witty, informative articles on self-improvement, health and beauty tricks, shopping events, travel suggestions, food choices, career review tips, lifestyle advice and stylish 1920s-inspired illustrations.

That's not all: Each planner comes with 24 discount or gift coupons from various fashion, food, beauty and wellness stores. Brands included are Havaianas, All That Hops, Chocolate, The Spa, Kinderdots, Toya, PowerFit, Jack's Lab, Relaxed, VRC, The Bump (Cravings Dept. store), Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Hanerk, Temple Bar, Aria Urban Salon, and many more!

We wishes and inquiries, e-mail belledejour.pamplanner@gmail.com.

## Encore! Encore!

Rachel Ashanorous reportedly appearing in a Jesus Nadeau advertising campaign. The voluptuous actress who likes to tease after starring in movies like "Lust in Translation" was previously featured in a Taiwan campaign in 2004.

This time around, she's supposedly doing Nadeau's Spring 2007 ads. Also featuring Jennifer Lopez in its ads in 2000, Nadeau has worked with other celebrities like Claire Swegan, Christina Ricci, Haylee Chisholm and Renee Rouge.

# All The Season's Best At Araneta Center

**As the premiere lifestyle and entertainment hub in the country, Araneta Center has lots of exciting activities lined up for you this Yuletide Season!**

Experience a taste of Singapore as Gateway Mall brings you loads of fabulous prizes with the "Uniquely Singapore, Exclusively Gateway" promo, in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board. every P100 purchase lets shoppers play the Merlion Ball Game and a chance to win 20 FREE trips to Singapore as well as instant prizes! Join the fun on November 18 to 19 at the Gateway Cineplex 18 Lobby on Level 4.

Grab the best Holiday buys at fabulous bargain prices at the Absolutely Christmas Bazaar. Offering a great selection of Christmas gifts, toys, décor, wardrobe, novelty items and other cool finds, the bazaar is open during mall hours from November 9 to January 10 at the Ground Floor of All Mall.

Spice up your Yuletide shopping fun at "In A' Olde Kristmassovine" a holiday exhibit offering a wide array of Christmas goodies. Troop to Level 3 of Gateway Mall and usher in the season's festive mood from November 21 to December 4.

As a way of thanking our loyal shoppers, Araneta Center is launching a Christmas promo like no other, "Christmas Around The World," which promises to fulfill every shopper's dream of reaching different destinations around the globe when they shop or dine at the Center.

And of course, Christmas in the metro would not be complete without a well-loved tradition at the heart of it all—The Araneta Center Giant Christmas Tree Lighting This year, Araneta Center promises a much brighter Christmas with a new music twist as it lights up its 80-foot Giant Christmas Tree with the coolest revival songs inspired by the greatest pop group from the '70s, The Hotdogs, as sung by today's hottest local acts. Set to perform in this year's biggest holiday musical extravaganza are Christian Bautista, Sheryn Regis, the Company, John Pratts, Sam Milby, and Madeleine and other surprise guests. Get ready to groove your way to Christmas on November 18 at 5 pm at the Araneta Coliseum Parking Quadrant C.

Join in the many festive extravaganzas sure to put you in the Christmas spirit. Thrill to the sights and sounds of Christmas and experience the best of the Holiday Season at Araneta Center!

**Watch the lighting of the Giant Christmas Tree!**

## 'Tis The Season To Be Groovy

**An Araneta Center Retro Holiday Special**

**November 18, 2006 • 5:00 pm**
**Araneta Coliseum Parking Quadrant C**
(NEAR RED GATE)

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**Sheryn Regis • John Pratts & many more!**

**Plus special guests**
**Mayor Sonny Belmonte**
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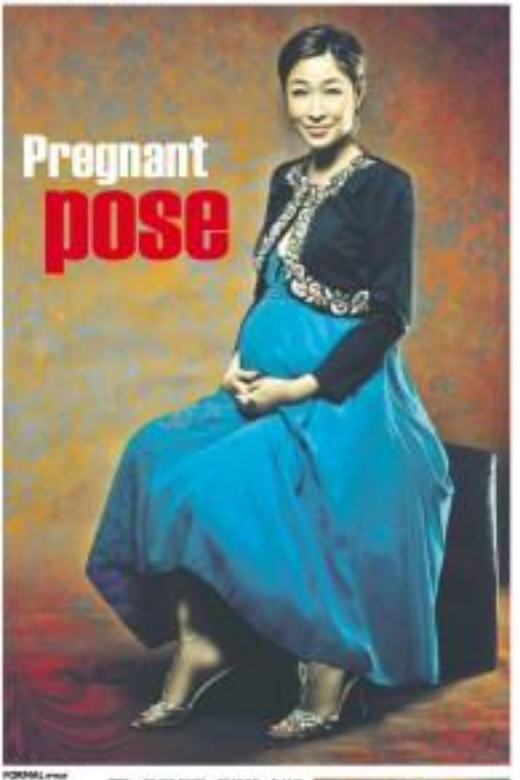
Pregnant women need not hibernate nowadays with great fashion choices from Egg

# Pregnant pose



SM
We've got it all for you!

FORMAL wear could suit for having nothing with Egg's fashionable choices.

REMEMBER THOSE DAYS when pregnancy was tantamount to a nine-month fashion hibernation?

Back then, it was just too difficult to dress stylishly with the pace of an ever-changing silhouette? And what's more, maternity and its concomitant soothing hue (sage, softer-cobalt) dresses in colors that eerily resembled with one's nursing sickness emerged here.

Thankfully, fashion for pregnant women has taken a giant step forward in the last decade. Nowadays, body-conscious maternity wear that celebrates a woman's beautifully pregnant shape abound in the local retail market. And more so now that Egg (formerly Egg Growing Girls) is finally available to Manila.

Egg offers not only ultra-fashionable clothes for pregnant women (it's the only maternity brand included in the New Zealand and Australia fashion Weeks and the Rhinestone fashion show!), but also clothes that are comfortable and can easily adjust to ever-growing bodies (look the first month up to after-one-years birth!

Pregnant women don't have to keep on buying new items every couple of months, as Egg items can evolve and keep her looking great no matter what trimester she's in.

Keeping in mind every pregnant woman's fashion needs, Egg has come up with everything she might need for any occasion...jeans and tees for casual days, long gowns, wrap tops for date nights with the hubby, glamorous hues for trimmed shrugs for cocktails, and even glam empire-cut dresses that can be worn long after one has delivered!

Egg even strives to keep up to date on trends without getting too freaky, thus making every piece a good investment and easily

PASTEL looks and jeans make a casually pretty pair.

wearable for succeeding pregnancies.

Pregnant women need not hibernate nowadays. In fact, they can be as fashionable as they want to be with these great fashion choices from Egg.

AM

**Photography Do Alhara**
**Styling Diana Cuna-Pitz**
**Graphic Design Pisco Uy**
**Makeup Ara Fernando**
**Model Agot Bangun**

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# LIFESTYLE

FASHION

Bag bags Bag bags Bag bags Bag bags Bag bags Bag bags Bag

# Unabashed luxury

ITALIAN FASHION IS KNOWN throughout the world for its longstanding heritage of quality and craftsmanship. Tod's is a classic example of this, with its sophisticated luxury line of men's and women's fashion. A brand encompassing three generations of Italian finery, Tod's manages to mix tradition with modern sensibility.

Jenni Epperson

In its Spring/Summer 2007 collection, Tod's women's line unveils sculptures, delicate and sophisticated designs sourced from natural materials, and enriched by new details that create fantastic contemporary silhouettes.

"You'll see a lot of 'skin' this season—calf skin, snakeskin, lizard, crocodile and perera leather. The bag of the season is the boomerang (the iconic classic resembles a boomerang), a chic shoulder bag adorned with soft rounded-off bows and leather details.

The latest Tod's collection, on the other hand, boasts a new understated, sober mood, tracking back to the art of bespoke tailoring and handmade creations.

UNABASHED 01

THE AUTHOR with Tod's president and CEO Diego Dela Valle

Tod's president and CEO Diego Dela Valle spills the beans on what makes his brand the toast of the premium set

Unique 001 collection Unique 001 collection Unique 001

# Sweet, dreamy, feminine

Text by Alex T. Vergara
Photos by Patricia Uy

JADED AND FAULTFINDING fashion critics probably found nothing earth-shaking and radical about Monique Lhuillier's celebrated creations made of the finest lace, chiffon, jersey, tulle and duchesse satin.

But women planning their weddings and dressing of their own red-carpet moments most probably did, and that was all the validation the Los Angeles-based Lhuillier needed as she presented an 82-piece collection consisting of casual, evening and bridal wear at the Makati Shangri-La's Grand Ballroom Sunday night.

The dinner and fashion show drew society figures from both Manila and Cebu as they hailed the achievements of yet another Filipino on the global stage. It was a back-to-back array of coeds, as singer Lea Salonga, another world-class talent, was the show's guest performer.

Sponsored by the Ayala Group of Companies, Nestlé, Emirates Airlines, Steven Lim Fashion Inc. and M. Lhuillier, the show was for the benefit of the Asia Society and Battery Bata Inc.

For sure, a great deal of the public's curiosity, to see Lhuillier's pieces up close and personal, sprang from curiosity. This, in turn, was fueled by the fact that she has become a favorite fashion designer of Hollywood A-listers.

Their desire to look sharply was reflected in most of Lhuillier's classic pieces that were either cinched at the waist or the empire by delicate headwork.

A number of bias-cut skirts with flared hemlines further emphasized the woman's hourglass figure, while several bridal and debutante gowns and dresses with large, cloud-like skirts with built-in petticoats underscored their dreamy quality. While the construction and proportions were impeccable, the collection's coloration was somewhat subdued.

Her figure-flattering creations may be imbued with utmost femininity, but they're not as fragrant as a body-hugging, skin-baring dresser gown is. Instead, Lhuillier left enough room for models to flaunt and look regal in their gowns. In her design book, sexy and mysterious are not exclusive of each other.

Apart from being keen to the needs and wants of her target market, Lhuillier also portrayed her own biases on how a woman should look and, perhaps, act in public. For one, she never hid the fact that her design sensibilities lean toward a woman's sweet, feminine side.

But a thin line divides the sweet from the dreamy, and Lhuillier, through her clothes, seemed pretty much aware of this. Unlike some local designers we know, she doesn't necessarily believe that size and weight always matter.

From where we sat, the designer did a tough balancing act—and succeeded—as she tempered the use of ruffles, ribbons, appliqués, neon colors and headwork evident in each of what was visually palatable. Which was all for the better, since one usually experiences a virtual riot in "blood sugar" after being subjected to the [illegible] fashion confection.

In her credit, we experienced no [illegible] the swanky cocktail sessions in [illegible] few bridal shows we witnessed [illegible] past. Not unlike Vera Wang, one of [illegible] fancy nuptial's chiefs, the designer still [illegible] bit to learn about combining and juxtaposing various cuts and materials to [illegible] tweak the appearances of her individual pieces.

The designer, who was in the Cebu [illegible] town, also revealed her fine taste, selecting [illegible] down to her models' Manolo Blahnik shoes.

Although her dresses have simple cuts [illegible] terms of making their wearers stand [illegible] and look like a "million dollars," we could [illegible] help but notice how unwearably similar [illegible] monotonous's cotton pieces were. A number of her tailored jackets also appeared [illegible] expensive re-hashes.

We also wish Lhuillier were more discerning when it came to the show's music.

Despite having some of age in the [illegible]

# Texture and architecture

Text by Alex T. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vesina

CLOTHES WITH AN "ARCHITECTURAL" quality need not be as stiff and as lifeless as a girder. In the hands of a seasoned veteran like Cesar Gaupo, they can achieve plenty of swing and welcome through the right play of fabrics and proportions.

He may not be a real architect, said Gaupo, former resident designer of Shanghai Tang, but that hasn't stopped him from thinking like one by fashioning structured and detailed pieces "done in a different manner."

The country's undisputed "STN King" recently capped off the month-long "Metrowear Stories" at the World trade with a collection of wears, jackets, shorts and evening dresses that seemed to have characters/looks from the 1960s and the 1980s.

But Gaupo loves to point out time and again that he doesn't consciously derive inspiration from a particular era or celebrity. Instead, he first works around the fabric to achieve some sense of direction. He then personalizes a particular dress by shaping it to his wearer's personality and lifestyle.

Gaupo's latest collection was no exception. His vista he made use of such materials as satin, cotton, shantung, jersey and plenty of chiffon to fashion stiff, above-the-knee

dresses and ballsy-doll dresses and swing coats. He also updated the bar pants by pairing them off with body-hugging cropped blouses with pearl sleeves and built in micro crustacean of Josie Cuillon.

To keep consistency at bay, Gaupo also did a number of soft, semi-beaded and decorative dresses and pencil skirts with hints of shirring.

But Gaupo couldn't seem to leave enough of the tropical silhouette, as he combined a number of straight dresses with either satin shrugs or A-line coats in soft layers of chiffon. The swing of most ensembles is a number of dresses with chalked trumpet sleeves, as only the designer could have fashioned them.

Apart from playing with textures, Gaupo also had a grand time playing with proportions. Thus, simpler dresses achieved a more current feel, thanks to the designer's use of

Cesar Gaupo's recent Metrowear collection once more proved that wearable and interesting need not be mutually exclusive

design book, as shown
llection, sexy and mysterious
h other

and the traditionalist in us believes that gray and navy have little such as "Pretty in Pink" and "Purple Rain," no matter how stylized they were, none may fit the mark for such a formal event. (For a moment there, we were already bracing ourselves for Billy Idol's "White Wedding.")

If we are to trust it solely on audiences reaction, however, the show was a rousing success.

While on computers colleague from another publication couldn't understand what the big fuss was all about, a thirty-something publicist declared decisively that she longed for the day when she'd finally march down the aisle in a Monique Lhuillier wedding gown.

Her dream was somewhat short-lived, as somebody at the table soon burst her bubble: It takes two people to get married!

Well, with Lhuillier around, part of her problem is already solved.

*E-mail the author at margaret@inquirer.com.ph*

black leggings and stockings as popularized by the likes of Nicole Ghesquiere and Alber Elbaz.

The "fashion/rags look" (as in Ghesquiere) extended to Gaspo's use of metallic and leather pinafores, which he himself designed. For this show, he collaborated with bags and accessories designers Ben Valdez and Ariel Prigo.

Meanwhile, his ode to the 1980s also involved a great deal of juxtaposition in terms of silhouettes. Flare pants were mid-cropped blouses with larger-than-life sleeves, then wide-legged trousers belonged to richer ensembles or fitted tops.

To allow volume and silhouettes to do the talking, he purposely steered clear of bright holiday shades in favor of muted tones such as black, brown, gray, teal, ivory and bottle green.

(Now, if only people behind the production had put more thought into something as basic as lighting. Not a few photographers had a hard time getting the perfect shot as all approaches were lit from the back. The floor-covering plastic sheeting, which doubled as somebody's idea of columns, also partly obstructed the view.)

Save for a few dresses that were a tad too loose on the chest, Gaspo's collection again proved that ensemble and interesting need not be mutually exclusive.

*E-mail the author at margaret@inquirer.com.ph*

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# Unabashed luxury

From page 19

What's noticeable about Yeh's is that, unlike other brands screaming of adornments, the focus is on the buttery leather material, treatments on the leather (some materials are dyed using a sponge technique that gives an uneven, worn-in look) and exquisite crafts-manship—truly the backbone of luxury products. Yes, despite the sophisticated look, the bags are durable and functional.

I had the pleasure of catching up with Yeh's president and CEO Diego Jolis Valle recently in Hong Kong for Yeh's press conference held at the Lyric Theatre. He gave us an idea of the philosophy of "contemporary luxury" that is behind the brand, as well as its expanding presence in the Asian market.

What steps are you taking to ensure a strong presence in this Asia-Pacific region?

Asian people have a very good sense of quality and detail. I think Asians are some of smartest customers in the world. These are our kind of customers, because they want to buy the items, they want to buy the quality. I think we have very big opportunities here. We already have incredible success in northern Asia. What we want to do is to keep maintaining to our customers what it is behind the name, and behind every store—our great incredible knowledge of quality and luxury.

What can we look forward to in terms of design innovations?

Season by season, there is always a small touch that we change. In the past, the leaves were was seen as very boring. That is why for us, movement is always important. In wearing contemporary luxury, there are always small changes, but they are always fresh.

How do you describe the Yeh's customer?

Our customers want to buy the best products. They are people with number and good tastes, and they are prepared to spend more money for long-term benefits. Our customers travel a lot and have an international mentality, meaning they are exposed to the world.

How do you deal with counterfeiting problems?

It's not a big problem, because, say, you want to make one kind of bags, you'd have to get very expensive materials. And you have to get all those people to hand-stitch the bag. It's different for other companies that use a certain kind of fabric that's easy to copy.

The most important thing for us is the high level of quality. That's our policy, in effect. We have a country and a culture of quality. We want to offer our customers the best products that will last all your life. So it's very important to translate what's behind the products. Sometimes people buy because Blanche Hadaya or Julie Roberts use the bags. But behind it all, there is a real consistency.

What makes Yeh's stand out in the luxury market?

Our philosophy of contemporary luxury it's possible to create a product that values iconic, modernity and quality. We make one of the best quality materials. Our products are handmade—there are about 4,000 employees that work day by day with their hands, and we need about 24-25 days to finish one bag, using only the best material. It is important to keep a modern point of view, so we are functional and we just reflect of Yeh. Before, "luxury" was boring. Now, we merge function and luxury.

*E-mail the author jfulton@inquirer.com.ph*

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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TAKE FIVE

## *Ken says 'hate' e-mail made him sick*

By Maricel R. Cruz

EXCLUSIVE TWENTIES WINS TRIBUTE award to some celebrities at the Philippine Idol finale last night, topped one in the categories, was exposed the earliest.

On Sunday night, Dingle, the 22-year-old singer from Baguio City became the seventh contestant to be booted from the singing talent search/program on ABC-5.

Twenty, pitch-loving the "Idol" judge Francis Magalona, had predicted it was Dingle's turn to leave. Only Pow Chavez, Jon Skore, Gian Magdangal, Mau Marcelo and Miguel Moradata will perform on Sunday. The show's theme is "Movies and Musicals," and guest judge is award-winning Broadway star Lea Salonga.

In a phone interview on Tuesday, Ken told Inquirer Entertainment that there was a point in the competition when he got so emotional, he was ready to give it up. This was about the time he recalled, when he made the mistake of reading "hate comments" about him on the Net.

"That was the week I got sick—I couldn't stop thinking of those comments," he said. "I thought they were being unfair; they didn't know what was happening backstage. Eventually ... I told myself I couldn't please everybody."

Ken added that the most upsetting comment he ever got was from "Idol" judge Ryan Cayabyab. "My Could I had erased the memory of Jhon (Vhanbel and Raymund Dipal). I can see some of who gave me and who gave electronic."

Now 90, Chan-Ho is not about Ken: "I will miss Ryan, although I for the most part of his way (he) was a whipping boy. I didn't enjoy 'whipping' him at all, but he gave a lot of sentimental examples on how not to perform. But the way he sang 'Get Here' was excellent. I'm almost tempted to say that (without him) the next rounds will be boring."

**Do you think Mr. Yeinino's comments influenced the voters?**

He was just being himself. I didn't take it personally, although I think what he said did have an effect on the voters' perspective.

**How did "Idol" help you improve as a performer?**

I learned a lot about myself during my stint in "Idol." I realized that I really should not compromise my singing style. All the while, I was trying to impress the people and the judges. I should have stuck to my style. I'm good at improvising, I just don't feel that when I sing from the heart.

**Did you have any music training prior to "Idol?"**

None, but [since] I'm thinking of getting some training to improve on what I have.

**Who are your closest friends in the Top 12?**

Jon Skore. He [has] adopted me. He's living in their Quezon City home for the duration of this contest.

**What are your plans after "Idol?"**

A lot of people are asking if I would go back to Australia. I plan to stay in Manila and pursue a singing career here.

# 'Donsol' wins in Florida fest

By Rayzel Sue Obogo Jr.

DONSOL OLD BUT "DONSOL" WON Best Low-Budget Feature at the 21st Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival held in Florida from Oct. 30 to Nov. 11.

"It's in the Guinness Book as the festival with the longest running title," Alix, just arrived from the United States, told Inquirer Entertainment on Tuesday. "Over 200 movies were screened, but only 10 made it to the competition section. 'Donsol' was the only one from Asia."

"Donsol" was up against films from Argentina, United Kingdom, France, US, Sweden, Czech Republic, Spain, the Netherlands and South Africa.

Best film prize went to the Spanish entry, "Sobre," directed by Oscar-winner Fernando Almodóvar.

Alix said he made his movie for P3 million ($62,000).

The 1,500-seater venue in Fort Lauderdale was 75 percent filled during his film's June screening, said Alix. "There were only five Filipinos. The foreigners were interested in Bicol and local legends and there were a lot of questions about the whale sharks. Some were crying by the film's end."

In September, "Donsol" won the Special Jury Prize at the Asian Marine Film Festival in Hokkaido, Japan.

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4 THE COVENANT

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5 CASINO ROYALE
6 CASINO ROYALE

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# Craig on

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# Craig on being a sex object, Dame Judi's naughty remark

LOS ANGELES—"THERE ARE WORSE things to be," Daniel Craig, the terrific new James Bond said, laughing, about being seen more objectively.

He looked satisfyingly well-muscled in a blue suit the other weekend in New York. With smiling blue eyes, Daniel poked about his Q-Zyrox-ly ready-assemble. "It's just something I threw on for a meeting. Laughter." Replying to a reporter's question on "who he was wearing," the new 007 method of the brand name: "Turnbull & Asser' date. Prada tie and Ralph Lauren suit. Hot. Very, very kindly gave me."

When he was teased with, "Underwear for?" Daniel quipped, "I am not wearing underwear. Laughter."

Here's nothing Daniel says this candid, very much has been more than a matter of business, where their movies become huge franchise enterprises. As we reported last Sunday, Daniel is compelling in "Casino Royale," his first outing as classicist most beloved secret agent. Grimy and gilded, he takes Bond to the 21st century in this the thing 21st film in the franchise.

**'Absolute monster'**

Asked to comment on the fatal shot Judi Dench, who plays M?, bore fit, once new him naked and was superficially out, tremendously impressed ("Absolute monster" were re-pointedly her words), Daniel simply smiled and said, "Dear, time you see Judi, ask her but I'm certainly not going to comment on that shot."

The actor's rugged looks register honest concerns about in person. Blond-haired description of Daniel as a Los Angeles Times profile is no target: "He has often opposite around, even mangled, yet somehow he turns, and it's wonderful, sensitive and even straight more describe him as sexy."

And while Daniel comfortably fits the sort's tough, sexual image of an action hero, when he does a double in "Casino Royale," even the camera lingers on him. The stunt was book-ended when the scene ended in.

Still smiling, Daniel could not hear a journalist's observations that the actor's appearance as a bikini pair of trunks is reminiscent of first Bond Ursula Andress' bikini scene in "Dr. No."

DANIEL CRAIG

## ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

*Ruben V. Nepales*

"I come out of the water in my bikini," said the 38-year-old, with a laugh. "Maybe it's just a little homage. There two movies, 'Dr. No' and 'From Russia With Love,' are two of my favorite movies of all time. Not just because they're Bond movies. They're exceptional. I looked at them very carefully and tried to get the essence of what was going on. Sean Connery did something extraordinary with that role. So there's always a weak shot very."

Daniel is out in the world of Sean Connery but is closing closed shop on an action hero in the tradition of Steve McQueen. At the NY screening we attended, we all reasoned the assassin when Daniel's 007, asked if he wasn't the assassin of choice to shoot, answered, "Let Judi Dench give a damn!"

The weak high-tech Bond gadgets are scarce but that's what makes the action scenes exciting—the fights are raw. "I wanted to make sure that we were making this as physical as possible," Daniel stated. "We wanted to base the on reality. I had black eyes, cuts and bruises and muscle strain. I took a lot of painkillers."

"Casino Royale" director Martin Campbell (who also directed Pierce Brosnan's 'Bond 007' movie, "Goldeneye"), co-stars Jeffrey Wright, Caterina Murino and Mads Mikkelsen speak glowingly about Daniel in our interviews with them.

Eva, who plays Vesper Lynd, Bond's first love in this film adaptation of Ian Fleming's first Bond novel, has a decision sense that would have been differently executed, had it been in an earlier 007 movie. Shaken from an incident, Eva Vesper is joined by Bond in the shower—just as other critics, not to mention my wife, Vesper dislikes the men James Bond will become, since Fleming's debuting 007.

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# LIVING Stars

Lutsa Emmie G. Velarde

[illegible] magazine and newspaper for the homepage for STAR Globalnet and PDI Internet at [illegible] www.livingstars@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOS BY [illegible]

## PHOEMELA BARRANDA

I LEAD a pretty hectic lifestyle, so my favorite corner is my pad in the bedroom, where I am most relaxed. Once I step inside my room, I feel dreamy. There's also a breathtaking view of the city from my balcony. The ravishing city lights give me a very calm feeling. This is also where I read before turning in. I'm very minimalist when it comes to décor. I don't like clutter ... though I have a mirror statue from Uganda, a gift from a friend. Bayani San Diego Jr.

## GARDO VERSOZA

I OWN three guard dogs, a 9-year-old Rottweiler named Gilley, a 4-year-old Pit bull called Terminic and the gentlest and most affectionate, Gorgeousness, the 4-year-old Great Dane Eleven Inch. They've been my pets for seventy. Originally I bought them for companionship. I lived alone in this house before my mom moved in after she/her/her employment in the US. My pets are like members of the family. They're extremely loyal and loving. Bayani San Diego Jr.

## Royal premiere

BRITNEY'S Queen Elizabeth II attends the London premiere of the new 007 film "Casino Royale" on Monday. AFP

AFP ex-dot?watch actress Eva Green ... AFP

... Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh ... AFP

... Paris Hilton ... AFP/File

... and, of course, Diana Jadi Dench ! REUTERS

MONIQUE WILSON

I'M reading "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta von Trapp (the woman who inspired "The Sound of Music"), in preparation for the Repertory Philippines production. I always do research for plays. Not "Aspects of Love," I read the original novel by David Garnett. For "Cabaret," "The Berlin Stories" by Christopher Isherwood, "The Third Reich" and other books on the rise of Nazism. I'm also reading M. Scott Peck's "Mounting Grace" and Lisa Hagen's "Request for Acting." Bayani San Diego Jr.

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**DID YOU KNOW...**

WHO do Richard Gomez, Dietlher Crampo, Jerome Ponce and Ryan Agoncillo have in common? They're all dermatology fiends who have favorite subjects are? Lucy Torres, Kristine Hermosa, Heart Evangelista and Judy Ann Santos—respectively.

# Merk's marks anniversary

FEELING COZY with wife Rita, Mark's Bar Bravo is in Greenhill 3, Makati City.

YOUNG GUEST Rita Iringan, champion of QTV's "Pop Star Kids" and grandchild of stand-up comedian Tessy de Guzman, left.

# Famas night

PARTY! PARTY!

TOP photo, from left, Jojo Mapa, Regine Velasquez, Cliffe Bartolo, Richard Reynoso and Carmina Marana. Left photo, from left: Mara Isabel and mom Maria Isabel Lopez, Regine Velasquez and Marissa delMar.

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## Rita's 'miracle' baby

ACTRESS RITA IRINGAN GIVES BIRTH

newly born son, a "miracle baby"

Her son, our source pregnancy when she lost a miscarriage and had been very vocal about her ardent wish to have a child since.

On a TV chat show, she openly talked about calling her cuddly... named Papoy and Idanay...as if they were actual old.

On Nov. 10 at 3:52 p.m., she gave birth to a 3.5-lbs. baby boy.

"My husband (TV director Nikki Reyes) and I share the same like Jose (pronounced, Hosey-Way), Elia, after his brother di. name Elia Grace, and Ann or Anne in Latin," she told inquirers heartwarming.

In many ways, he's a blessing, she continued.

"When I was still pregnant, I used to sing 'Sana Maulit' ("The Lord's Prayer") to him every day. Whenever I feel it hurt, he'd usually move in my tummy. Now, whenever I sing the prayer to him, he seems to recognize it, moving his eyes from side to side before falling asleep," she related.

As for Papoy and Mickey?

"They're still unsure. They're an important part of our lives," she quipped.

Reposted from Abs-Cbn.ph

Philippine Ballet Theater (PBT), the country's foremost classical ballet company, presents ***Esmeralda*** (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*). The ballet will be PBT's final production for its 20th anniversary celebration. This glorious piece will be shown from November 17 to 19 at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Pasay City and on November 25 at Meralco Theater, Pasig City.

Performing as Esmeralda is Faye Abigail Tan, 2007 National Music Competition for Young Artists (NMCYA) gold medalist. Alternating in the lead role is her friend Mary Tennan, another NMCYA finalist. Jamil Ishmael Tan and Joel Matias will alternate as Captain Phoebus while Ramiro Jaymalin and Peter Lloyd San Juan will be playing the role of Quasimodo. Managing ***Esmeralda*** is PBT's resident ballet Master, Rosalyn Punzalan-Lim under the direction of Gener Caringal, the company's Artistic Director.

Tickets for CCP shows are available at TicketWorld (891-9999) outlets in National Bookstore and Tower Records branches and the CCP box office (832-3704 and 832-3706). For Meralco Theater tickets, please call the PBT office at 633-8948 and 8921-8326/65.

# "THE NATIVITY STORY"

## WILL BE THE FIRST MOVIE TO BE SCREENED AT THE VATICAN EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE POPE AND SOME 700 VIP's FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

New Line Cinema's "The Nativity Story" will become the first feature film ever to premiere at the Vatican, it was announced today by New Line's President and COO of Worldwide Distribution and Marketing Bill Mechanic. "The Nativity Story" is scheduled for a Dec. 1, 2006 release in the U.S., and will open in territories worldwide throughout the month of December.

"We are very proud of 'The Nativity Story' and extremely grateful that the Vatican has embraced the film in this way," says Mechanic. "We believe it is the perfect venue to present the film's universal message of hope and faith, a message we are sure will resonate around the world."

"The Nativity Story' chronicles the arduous journey of two people, Mary and Joseph, a miraculous pregnancy, and the history-defining birth of Jesus. —L.A. Movie Post

Academy Award nominee Keisha Castle-Hughes plays Mary, the mother of Jesus, in New Line's "The Nativity Story."

"TWB gold outfit and impact print overlay is chiffon [for Charina Garte] are the perfect fits on my body."

# Pinky's many faces

"I LIKE SINGING different kinds of songs, just as I like wearing different kinds of clothes. It's hard to say what I really like," Arthel-singer Pinky Amador said when we became "I've tried to marry different genres, done many things, played many different roles. Everybody should have more than just one talent to have."

Pinky stars in "We [can We] Not Really Love Me?" at the Teatrino in Greenhills, on Nov. 30. Needless to say, she is very excited. "This is the first time that a concert has been conceptualized solely and purely around me. I will perform songs that I've always wanted to sing. There's even a portion called 'My Life in 8 Songs.'"

Tiny Quinto directs. Guest performers are Michael Williams and Ai ai Lawsin.

Who really loves whom? The show's title says it Hollywood actress Sally Field's words when she won her second Oscar. Stay tuned for the film "Flores in the Moss."

—Reynaldo B. Cruz

"I LIKE this three-piece tuxedo by Randy Ortiz. It's a bit theatrical."

"TWB beaded gown [by Rajo Laurel], right, is the ultimate show dress." Silver sandals by Solea.

"I'VE SAID, YES is my favorite suit." Outfit by Tina Navarro for Saya, left. Bracelet and earrings by Clara Creates.

"TWB beaded black dress [Randy Ortiz] reminds me of the 1920s look." Earrings by "D" of the House of Laurel.

# 'Flor' show

By Gaynel San Diego jr.

Photos by Rony Hondillada

IN THE HEAT OF THE midday sun, the lead stars of the ABS-CBN soap opera "Maria Flordeliza" walk to and from their cuarta, followed by assistants-turning assistants.

Between takes, Vina Morales and Albert Martinez take refuge under a makeshift tent, where they rest away on their cell phones.

Albert reprises the role originated by Rudy Fernandez, Col. Leo Alcantara, and Vina plays the wife, Elena Avengoville, first portrayed by Emma Salinas on the RPN 9 series "Flordeliza" earlier 1980s.

In while away the time, child actor Noah Aquino, a.k.a. Bebe Boy, plays video games on a Portable Playstation. He later shares a cool drink with his screen sister Elisa Pineda, a.k.a. Flordeliza.

Aquino and Pineda are taking over roles made popular by Herbert Bautista and Jessie de Belen.

According to director Jerry Sineneng, more than a thousand girls auditioned for the role of Flor.

The romantic search took five months. "Choosing this Flor is one of the toughest decisions I've had to make in my career," Sineneng says.

SNEAK PEEK

VINA gets a touch-up, left. Above, Direk Jerry Sineneng gives instructions.

WHAT'S with the wide grin?

ALBERT bars on a between-takes.

ALBERT and Vina with character actor Rodolfo Aquino.

NASH Aquino and his Portable Playstation.

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